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Mary Lacey,

Sept. 4th 1848

To B. & M. F. Browning.

May 1870



W. GARDNER, 1838

G. F. WILLIAMS, DEL.



Mount St. Helens

May 1882

A Perambulation
Of the Antient & Royal
Forest of Dartmoor,

By
Samuel Rowe, M.A.

Vicar of Crediton, Devon.



WILLIAMS DEL.

DREWSTEIGNTON CROMLECH.

PAUL GAUCI, LITH

Plymouth,

J. B. Rowe, Whimble Street,

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A
PERAMBULATION
OF THE
ANTIENT AND ROYAL
FOREST OF DARTMOOR,
AND THE
VENVILLE PRECINCTS,
OR A
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND SCENERY;
WITH NOTICES OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY, CLIMATE, AND AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES, AND A VALUABLE
COLLECTION OF ANTIENT DOCUMENTS.

BY SAMUEL ROWE, A.M.

VICAR OF CREDITON, DEVON; AND MEMBER OF THE PLYMOUTH INSTITUTION.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS FROM DRAWINGS BY C. F. WILLIAMS, EXETER.

A wild and wondrous region.—CARRINGTON.

PLYMOUTH:
PUBLISHED BY J. B. ROWE,
AND HAMILTON, ADAMS AND Co. LONDON.
1848.

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D2R8
1848



TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,
ALBERT, PRINCE OF WALES,
AND
DUKE OF CORNWALL,
THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE ANTIQUITIES, AND TOPOGRAPHY,
OF HIS FOREST OF DARTMOOR, DEVON,
Is humbly dedicated by the gracious permission
OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT,
MASTER FORESTER,
AND LORD WARDEN OF THE STANNARIES,
BY HIS LOYAL, FAITHFUL AND MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,
SAMUEL ROWE.

*Vicarage, Crediton, Devon,
July 17th, 1848.*

EXCURSIONS.

EXCURSION I.—Sticklepath, Taw Marsh, Cosdon Hill, Clannaborough Common, Wotesbrook, Hound Tor, Scorhill Down, Watern Tor, Thirlstone, Cranmere Pool, Fenworthy, Gidleigh Park, Chagford.

II.—Holy-Street, Chagford Bridge, Shilston Cromlech, Bradmere Pool, Drewsteignton Logan Stone, Fingle Bridge, Prestonbury Castle, Cranbrook Castle, Whiddon Park, Chagford.

III.—Jesson, Broadmoor Mires, Grey Wethers, Sittaford Tor, South Teign.

IV.—Moreton, Mardon Down, Wooston Castle, Vale of Teign, Clifford Bridge, Dunsford Bridge, Blackystone, Heltor, Bridford, Skattor, Moreton.

V.—Lustleigh, Bottor Rock, Becky Fall, Manaton, North Bovey, Moreton.

VI.—Bowerman's Nose, Houndtor, Heytor, Bector Cross, Moreton.

VII.—King's Oven, Shapely Common, Vitifer Mine, Challacombe Down, Grimspound, Hamildon, Widdecombe, Rippon Tor, Answell Rock, Ashburton.

VIII.—Holne Bridge, Holne Chase, Buckland in the Moor, Sharpitor, Rowbrook, Yartor, Brimps, Dartmeet, Hexworthy Bridge, Cumsdon Tor, Holne, Henbury Castle, Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh.

IX.—Dean Gate, Dean Burn, Huntingdon Cross, Knattleburrow, Abbot's Way, River Avon, Shipley Bridge, Coryndon Ball, South Brent, Three Burrow Tor, Butterton Hill, Western Beacon, Ivybridge.

X.—Harford, Sharpitor, Erme Plains, Erme Head, Grimsgrove, Langcombe Bottom, Yealm Head and River, Broadall Down, Pen Beacon, Shell Top, Cholwich Town, Goodamoor, Hemerdon Ball, Shaugh Prior, Trowlsworthy, Cadaford Bridge, Dewerstone Rock, Shaugh Bridge, Boringdon Camp, Plympton Earl.

EXCURSIONS.

XI.—Plympton St. Mary, Plym Bridge, Bickleigh Vale, Roborough Down, Meavy, Sheepstor, Eylesburrow, Siward's Cross, Fox Tor, Clacywell Pool, Black Tor, Stanlake, Prince Town, Two Bridges.

XII.—Crockern Tor, Parliament Rock, Dennabridge Pound, Bellevor Tor, Lakehead Hill, Bellevor Bridge, Post Bridge, Archerton, Chittaford Down, Wistman's Wood, Baredown, Fice's Well, Prince Town, Tor Royal, Mistor British Town, Great Mistor, Steeple Tors, Vixen Tor, Vale of the Walkham, Pewtor, Tavistock.

XIII.—Ina's Coombe, Mount Tavy, Cocks Tor, Petertavy, Lints Tor, Furtor, Watern Oak, Tavy Cleave, Marytavy, Tavistock.

XIV.—Heathfield Down, Brentor, Lydford Fall and Bridge, Kate's Fall, Lydford Borough and Castle, Doctor, Sourton Tor, Stengator, Willinghayes, Yestor, Miltor, Okehampton Castle, Okehampton.

XV.—Okelands, Okehampton Park, Rowtor, Holstock, Chapel Ford, Belstone Tor, Nine Stones, Belstone, Belstone Cleave, Okehampton.

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PREFACE.

AN Essay on the most prominent objects of antiquarian interest, in the Forest of Dartmoor, was originally read before the Plymouth Institution in the year 1828, as the result of the united researches of a few members* of that Society, who at different times had pursued their investigations in a district which, although within a few miles of their town, was little known to the neighbourhood and the county in general. The paper drawn up at the request of my esteemed coadjutors, was subsequently published in the Transactions of the Society. Since that time I have endeavoured to prosecute the investigations thus begun, for the most part with the able assistance of my valued friend the President of the Institution, at such intervals as scanty leisure and few opportunities would permit; hence, abundant materials have been collected for expanding the original essay into the present volume.

The publication has been undertaken with the view of rendering the numerous objects of interest, with which the great moorland district of the West abounds, more generally known and appreciated, in the persuasion that within its limits there is enough to repay, not only the historian and antiquary, but also the scientific investigator, for the task of exploring the mountain-wastes of the Devonshire wilderness. The characteristic tors, capping the hills with their massive granite piles, supply an interesting field of study to the geologist—Wistman's Wood, primitive and peculiar, affords an unique specimen to the botanist—and the aboriginal circumvallation of Grims-pound, one equally singular, to the antiquary. It is not difficult to

* Henry Woolcombe, Esq., (President); Col. Hamilton Smith, F. R. S.; John Prideaux, Esq.; and Rev. Samuel Rowe.

imagine that relics so remarkable, if situated in a far distant land, would be sought out, chronicled, and described, for the information of the learned and gratification of the curious; whilst in our own country, objects as fully calculated to illustrate the most antient periods of British history, as are the extraordinary ruins at Palenque that of Central America, are overlooked and neglected, as it would seem, for no other reason than their proximity, and facility of access.

The tourist, who ventures to penetrate the Devonshire Highlands, will also find himself greeted with a succession of scenes of unexpected loveliness and grandeur, especially along the entire verge of the Moor, many of them rivalling the far-famed scenery of North Wales, but distinguished by characteristic features of peculiar beauty. Nor have they been thought unworthy of admiration by more than one traveller fresh from the charms of Continental magnificence and sublimity, with whom I have visited the precincts of Dartmoor. My own opinion may be attributed to partiality for my native county, and to untravelled ignorance of

The Alps and Apennine,
The Pyrenean and the river Po;

but when it is fortified by the recorded sentiments of strangers, and by such competent and impartial authority as that of William Howitt, I feel justified, in specially referring to Devonshire, the pertinent expostulation which has been made with so much propriety in reference to Great Britain generally.

Pilgrims of beauty, ye, who far away
Roam where poetic deserts sadly smile,
Oh! ere you leave it, view your own fair native Isle.

The testimony of a native of Scotland, a writer of some ten years ago, in *Blackwood's Magazine*, who is evidently well acquainted with the district he describes, may here be adduced.

“West Devonshire is that large tract of land comprised between the Dartmoor mountains, the rivers Tamar and Plym, and the Plymouth Sound; and illustrious for the number, narrowness, and depth of the larger valleys,—whose banks generally rise into a flat ascent, from the banks of the dividing streams,—and for many down-like swells and many strangely fractured hills. You may know how dear this district was to us, last time we wandered through its delights,

when we tell you that we often forgot where we were wandering, and believed that we were holydaying it in one of the half lowland, half highland regions, among the blue bonnets of Auld Scotland. * * * Dartmoor,—we have nothing like it in Scotland. Our moor of Rannoch is a vast flat. * * But Dartmoor is no flat. It is indeed an elevated table land; but its undulations are endless; there are no separate single masses, nor can it be called mountainous;* but it is as if a huge mountain had been squeezed down, and in the process had split asunder, till the whole was one hilly wilderness, showing ever and anon strange half-buried shapes striving to uplift themselves towards the sky."

To the same effect, but in a still more enthusiastic strain, is the panegyric of William Howitt, in his *Rural Life of England*.

"If you want sternness and loneliness, you may pass into Dartmoor. There are wastes and wilds, crags of granite, views into far off districts, and the sound of waters hurrying away over their rocky beds, enough to satisfy the largest hungering and thirsting after poetical delight. I shall never forget the feelings of delicious entrancement with which I approached the outskirts of Dartmoor. I found myself amidst the woods near Haytor Crags. It was an autumn evening. The sun near its setting, threw its yellow beams among the trees, and lit up the tors on the opposite side of the valley into a beautiful glow. Below, the deep dark river went sounding on its way with a melancholy music, and as I wound up the steep road all beneath the gnarled oaks, I ever and anon caught glimpses of the winding valley to the left, all beautiful with wild thickets and half shrouded faces of rock, and still on high those glowing ruddy tors standing in the blue air in their sublime silence. My road wound up and up, the heather and the bilberry on either hand, showing me that cultivation had never disturbed the soil they grew in; and one sole woodlark from the far ascending forest on the right filled the wide solitude with his wild autumnal note. At that moment I reached an eminence, and at once saw the dark crags of Dartmoor high aloft before me."

Such is the verdict of a popular author, unbiassed by local

* Yet he has just called the Dartmoor ridge, "*mountains*," vide supra.

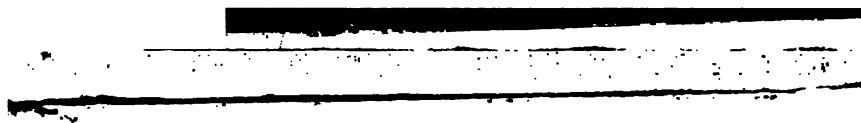
partialities, and conversant with the romantic loveliness of the Rhine and the stupendous magnificence of the Alps. And such is the district for which the author thinks himself justified in venturing to claim a foremost place among the scenes which

England holds

Within her world of beauty,

in the hope that the charms of our Devonian highlands will be more generally known and appreciated, and the interesting monuments of antiquity which they shelter, will be more effectually protected against the manifold modes of spoliation and destruction which have arisen from multiplied population, increasing commercial speculations, and economic improvements. The venerable relics of past ages (like the antient Britons, retreating before overpowering numbers,) have been pursued from one asylum to another, until the mountainous districts of the western and south-western portions of the island afford them their last and only refuge. But their rocky citadel is no longer secure. Quarries are opened on the heights of Dartmoor—powder-mills are projected in the very heart of its solitudes—cultivation is smiting its corners—steam is marshalling his chariots of iron, and coursers of fire, panting to penetrate its fastnesses,—and the most interesting vestiges of antiquity are in hourly danger of destruction. An account of the district which contains them (in a more systematic form than has yet been attempted) may at least preserve their memory, or perhaps more happily, may be the means of rescuing them from the impending assaults of the mason's hammer, and the excavator's pick, and of perpetuating their existence by pointing out their claims to the protection of all who feel becoming interest in the history of their country and of mankind.





PERAMBULATION OF DARTMOOR.

Regions like this, which have come down to us rude and untouched from the beginning of time, fill the mind with grand conceptions, far beyond the efforts of art and cultivation. GILPIN.



DARTMOOR, whilst it forms in itself the most conspicuous and characteristic feature in the physical geography of the county of Devon, contributes also, in no small degree, to partitioning this important shire into three principal divisions, which, generally speaking, are no less clearly defined by natural boundaries, than distinctly marked by peculiar features. From its extreme northern verge, North Devon* stretches to the Bristol Channel—the Teign sweeps round its eastern extremity within six miles of the Exe, (the well-defined boundary of East Devon) whilst South Devon or the South Hams† includes the fertile tract stretching from the southern slope of the Moor to the English Channel, and extending east and west from the Teign to the Tamar. Thus centrally placed, Dartmoor forms the most prominent and striking feature, not only of the county of Devon (occupying as it does one-

* The Devonshire tourist will, however, often find himself perplexed to ascertain whether he has reached North Devon or not. But "the North" has long been proverbially celebrated for the indefiniteness of its whereabouts, and the vagueness of the term is by no means confined to Devonshire.

Ask where's the North? At York 'tis on the Tweed,
In Scotland, at the Orcades;—and there
In Iceland, Zembla,—or, no soul knows where. POPE.

† South Devon is sometimes thus designated, but strictly speaking, the term *South Hams* is appropriated to a smaller district,—and a circle, of which Totness is the centre, with a radius of twelve or fourteen miles, would, perhaps, most nearly approach to its generally received limits.

fifth of its entire area,) but of the whole Western peninsula. Yet, though contributing so largely to the beauty of the far famed Devonshire scenery, and ministering so effectually to the fertility of the soil, it is comparatively little known, even to the inhabitants of the very district which benefits so largely from its proximity.

DARTMOOR PROPER, or the antient and royal Forest of that name, is defined by specific boundaries, but as there are numerous outlying tracts presenting the same physical features as the forest itself, it is intended to include, in the present description, the adjacent common lands which partake of the same general character.

Dartmoor and its adjuncts may thus be estimated, as extending about 20 miles from east to west, and 22 miles from north to south, and as containing more than 130,000 acres of land. De la Beche, the eminent geologist, calculates the distance from Buttersen Hill on the south, to Cosdon Beacon in the north, at 22 miles, and observes, that, "both geographically and geologically, the elevated land which extends eastward from Cawsand Beacon to Cranbrook Castle, Buttern Down and Mardon Down, near Moreton Hampstead, ranging round thence by Bridford and Hennoek to High or Hey Tor, forms part of Dartmoor." From Hey Tor above Ilington Church-town in a S.W. direction, the boundary takes the line of hills which overlook Ashburton. Thence, skirting the parishes of Holne, Buckfastleigh, and Brent, it proceeds to its southernmost point at the Western Beacon, and Three Burrow Tor, above Ivybridge. Thence trending to the north west, it crosses the rivers Erme and Yealm, passes by Cornwood, below Pen Beacon and Shell Top,—then takes a westerly course in the line of the Hentor ridge and Shaugh moor, approaches its westernmost point at Meavy, and thence runs almost from south to north, by Walkhampton, Sampford Spiney, west of the Tavy, to Peter Tavy, Mary Tavy and Sourton, thence to Okehampton and Belstone, where at its northernmost point it reaches Cosdon or Cawsand Beacon, and returns eastward as above described.

The whole forest of Dartmoor lies within the parish of Lydford,*

* Rex habet burgum de Lidford, et burgenses ibidem tenant vigint. et octo burgenses infra burgum, et 4l extra, &c. Inter omnes redditus reddant tres libras ad

by far the largest in the county." "In Edward the Confessor's days it was the king's demesne," says Risdon, but in after-times it became an appanage of the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall. When there is no heir apparent the forest reverts to the custody of the crown. Our indefatigable topographer quotes an antient document to show the former importance of the borough and manor of Lydford, and the extent of the forest of Dartmoor. On this, however, Lysons remarks, "it appears by a record, which he (Risdon) quotes, that it was a forest in the time of William the Conqueror; he does not tell where the record exists. The first part of it relating to Lydford, corresponds with the Survey of Domesday, but Dartmoor is not mentioned in that survey. It is called a forest in the record of 1238, and its boundaries were laid out by perambulation, in the following year."*

The learned antiquary to whom this work is indebted for prefatory remarks on a collection of interesting antient documents, (*Appendix VIII.*) observes that nothing but the *borough* of Lydford is noticed in Domesday. The absence of any notice "of the royal castle and manor, with the forest which from time immemorial has been appendant to them," is accounted for, as it is pertinently argued, by the fact that it was in the hands of the king, and that an uncultivated tract of land like that of Dartmoor, was under no circumstances likely to find its way into the enumeration of lands in Domesday.

The Castle of Lydford and the Forest of Dartmoor
 ANTIENT having been granted by Henry III. to his brother
 PERAM- Richard, Earl of Cornwall and Poicou, the afore-
 BULATION. said perambulation was made, by authority, in the
 twenty-fourth year of his reign, A.D. 1248, and
 verified by the solemn oaths of the twelve Perambulators, whose
 names are specified in the document, a copy whereof and of another

pensam, et arsuram, et sunt ibi quadraginta domus vastata, priusquam Rex venit in Anglia, et predict. burgenses et manerium de Lidford se extendit per totam villam et parochiam de Lidford, et per totam forrestam de Dartmoor.

This is from Risdon, but the following is from the original

Exon Domesday, page 80. Rex habet unum burgum qui vocatur Lideforda quem tenuit Edwardus rex ea die qua ipse fuit vivus et mortuus. Ibi habet rex viginti octo burgenses infra burgum et foras quadraginta unum et isti reddunt per annum tres libras, ad pensum regi, et ibi sunt quadraginta domus vastate postquam Willielmus rex habuit Angliam et supradicti burgenses habent terram ad duas carrucas foras civitatem. Et si expeditio vadit per terram vel per mare reddit tantum de servitio quantum Totenais reddit vel Barnstapla.

* Lysons, *Mag. Brit.*, Devon, vol. ii., p. 314.

survey made in the reign of James I., A.D. 1609, are given in the appendix, (*Documents*, No. VI. and XII.) From these interesting records, it appears that the Commissioners began their perambulation at Cosdon Hill in the North Quarter, and proceeded south-eastward, skirting the bounds of Throwleigh, Gidleigh, and Chagford, to the point where the North joins the East Quarter, near Fenworthy. From hence, southward, the forest boundary runs deep into the moorlands, leaving Moreton six miles to the east, and crossing the road from that town to Two Bridges and Tavistock, below King's Oven,* follows the course of the Wallabrook, until that stream falls into the East Dart, which becomes the boundary as far as Dartmeet. Leaving the West Dart, the line intersects the extensive moors in the South Quarter above Holne,—proceeding to the springs of the Avon, and thence to the Erme. Passing the Erme, and leaving Yealm Head on the south, the boundary proceeds northwards to Siward's Cross, enters the West Quarter, makes for Hessary Tor, and from thence mounts to Great Mistor. Thence across the Walkham and Tavy, it goes up the Rattlebrook, passes over the West Ockment, below Yestor to the verge of Okehampton Park, crosses the East Ockment at Halstock below Belstone, and returns to the starting point at Cosdon.

The Venville, or Fenfield districts, and those wastes † antiently known as the “Commons of Devonshire,” are also mentioned in the presentment of the Jury of the Survey Court for the Forest, made in the sixth year of King James I., A.D. 1609. Risdon enumerates the bounds and limits of the Fenfield men's tenures, beginning from Podaston Lake, running through Ashburton, and so through various places specified “to Ashborne, and so from thence in stream of Dart.” But it would be difficult, if not impossible, to identify the names thus enumerated with existing places; so that little available information on those points can be gleaned from his statement. But a

* *Furnum Regis*, King's Oven or Furnace. Probably an antient smelting or blowing house.

† In the forest, as well as in the venville commons, there have been from antient times certain inclosed lands called *new-takes*, as appears from accounts rendered by the officers of the forest and manor. The sums paid for these holdings are entered as *new rents*, and the tenure is called *Land-bote*. It is curious to observe that many of these *new-takes* (in the time of Henry VII.) contained no more than a single acre of land, *Appendix* No. VIII. For an explanatory notice of the use of this word *landbote*, in western rentals, see the *Archæological Journal*, April, 1848.

clearer notion of Venville bounds will be gained by an enumeration of the parishes in *Venville*, which on examination will be found to lie immediately round the Moor. Beginning in the north, and proceeding eastward, we shall find them to be Belstone, South Tawton, Throwleigh, Gidleigh, Chagford, North Bovey, Manaton, Widdecombe, Holne, Buckfastleigh, Dean Prior, South Brent, Shaugh Prior, Meavy, Sheepstor, Walkhampton, Sampford Spiney, Whitchurch, Cudliptown (in Tavistock), Taverton tything, Peter Tavy, Lydford, Bridestow, Sourton.

The Venville tenures seem to have originally grown out of trespasses on the Forest. By the survey of 25 *Edward I.*, among the proceeds of the Forest are included 4*l.* 10*s.* for fines of the villagers, and pasturage of cattle. "In 17 *Eliz.* an account was taken of the fines which had then grown to be fixed rents, and they amounted to 4*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.* They are payable at the Court Baron, held by the deputy-steward of the Forest, originally at Lydford Castle, but since its being ruinous, at Prince Town, Dartmoor, where homage-jurors are sworn in, surrenders taken, and grants made to the free and customary tenants."*

The Forest is divided into four quarters,—east, west, north, and south, in each of which except the western is a pound for stray cattle. There are some curious remains of feudal customs in the service, which the Venville men above mentioned render to the Prince of Wales as lord of the Forest, and by virtue of which they hold in *venville*, under the duchy. As tenants of the Prince they are liable to the service of *driving* the Moor, for trespasses in the Forest, once yearly in each quarter, (with an additional one in each quarter for colts), after receiving notice through the Forest Reeve from the Deputy-auditor, who fixes the exact time, which is somewhere between New and Old Midsummer Day.† They also do suit and homage at the Prince's courts, and are required to present all defaults in the Forest and its purlieus. Their privileges, on the other hand, are pasturage on the Moor, at a fixed rate,—“a right to take away any thing off the Forest that may do them good, except *vert*; and also to fish in all waters, and to dig turf in any

* *Burl's Preface to Carrington's Dartmoor*, p. 28.

† The colt-drift for the east, south, and west, is under the same precept and warrant.

place." They are further exempt from tollage in all fairs and markets throughout England, except London, Totness, and Barnstaple; and from attachment by any officer except for the yearly rent of four-pence at Michaelmas and Christmas."* The drifts at which the Venville men are required to assist, are for the purpose of ascertaining what stock is within the bounds, in order that the Forest may not be trespassed on by unlicensed cattle.

NATURAL
FEATURES.

The bounds of the Royal Forest, and the adjacent Commons and Moorlands, comprehend the district which forms the subject of the present account, under the general name of Dartmoor, so called, probably, from one of the principal of those numerous streams, of which it is the prolific parent. The whole of this large tract of land, rises conspicuously above the surrounding country. Its appearance is singularly characteristic and picturesque, on whatever side it may be approached from the adjacent lowlands. The bard of Dartmoor, with the eye of an accurate observer, and with the feeling of a genuine poet, describes as one of its prominent characteristics, the belt

Of hills, mysterious, shadowy,

by which it is encircled, as with a natural rampart, whilst it is moated by deep valleys, which wind around its base, and are replenished by streams, pouring down from the heights in every direction.

This primæval circumvallation comprehends within its stupendous inclosure, an elevated table land, which is not strictly a plain, but a series of hemispherical swellings or undulations, gradually overtopping each other, and here and there interrupted by deep depressions, yet without forming what may be properly called distinct mountains. "To a person standing on some lofty point of the Moor, it wears the appearance of an irregular broken waste, which may best be compared to the long rolling waves of a tempestuous ocean, fixed into solidity by some instantaneous and powerful impulse." It is thus with much graphic accuracy, the author of the Notes to Carrington's Dartmoor, paraphrases Gilpin's compendious description of the Moorland district of Devon, who says, "Dartmoor spreads like the ocean

* *Preface to Carrington's Dartmoor.*

after a storm heaving in large swells.”* Even at a distance it wears this billowy aspect, which in every zone, according to Humboldt, is the characteristic of primitive chains.

Mr. John Prideaux, an eminent member of the Plymouth Institution, in a paper published in the Transactions of that Society, faithfully sketches the geological features of the southern quarter of the Moor, which, as he justly remarks, “will apply to the whole.” It is entirely mountainous, the highest hills being on the borders, where some of them attain the height of nearly 2000 feet.† The valleys run in various directions, but have a tendency upon the whole to the north and south line. The hills rise often steep, sometimes precipitous,—their sides clothed with long grass, except where rushes or moss indicate subjacent bogs; and often strewn with loose blocks of granite, from fifty or more tons, down to the size of a flag-stone. A crag, called a *Tor*, usually projects at the summit of the hill, having a very striking appearance of stratification; the fissures being sometimes horizontal, more commonly a little inclined. This stratified character is not less general in the quarries, where, although there are none of those marked divisions, indicative of intermissions, in the original depositions of the rock, the stone always comes out in beds. The dip is different in different hills, but seems to have a prevailing tendency towards east and south.‡

De la Beche more concisely describes Dartmoor as “an elevated mass of land, of an irregular form, broken into numerous minor hills, many crowned by groups of picturesque rocks, provincially termed tors;§ and for the most part presenting a wild mixture of heath, bog, rocks, and rapid streams.”

* *Carrington's Dartmoor Notes.*

† Cosdon Beacon, 1792 feet above the sea level, was generally considered the highest point on Dartmoor until De la Beche published his Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon, and West Somerset, wherein he estimates Yes Tor at 2050 feet, and Amicombe Hill at 2000.

‡ *Transactions Plym. Inst.* 1830, p. 20.

§ Like most other provincial terms, *tor* is a relic of the ancient language of the country, preserved in the vernacular of the common people. It is found in both dialects of the ancient British tongues: Cornish *tor*, Welsh *tur*, as well as in Ir. Gael *tor*—a tower, heap, or pile. In addition to these it is traced by the learned Bosworth (Anglo-Sax. Dict. in voc) to the Dutch *toren*, Old German *turre turen*, Danish *taarn* (which is almost Devonian, as our moormen pronounce the word *tar*, and not *tor*) Swedish *torn*, &c. So that it is found in all the cognate Teutonic dialects, as well as in the Celtic; to which, however, Lye traces its primary derivation. “*Originem habet in lingua Celtica*

Such are the general features of this singular district, which from its stern and frowning aspect, as viewed from the surrounding lowlands, and as contrasted with their smiling pleasantness, has been long branded by traditional prejudice with an ill name. From generation to generation it has been proverbial as the chosen spot where bleak skies and brooding storms maintain undisputed and undisturbed

their antient solitary reign,

causing Dartmoor to be regarded through the entire neighbourhood, as the very fatherland* of the whole family of rains, from a mist to a waterspout. Its lofty tors may often be discerned glittering with an Alpine scapular of snow, amidst surrounding verdure, and frequently when Spring is smiling among the *coombs* of the South Hams, "Winter lingers, and chills the lap of May" along the bleak expanse of the Moor.

This proverbial barrenness of soil, and inclemency of climate may account for the slight and cursory notice which historians and topographers have thought fit to bestow upon the great Moorland district of Devonshire. Even the indefatigable Risdon contents himself (and appears to think he has satisfied all reasonable inquirers thereby) with enumerating "*three remarkable things*"† within the precincts of Dartmoor; and from his time to the present day, the opinion seems to have generally prevailed, that a tract so wild and barren could afford little to encourage research into its past history, or to repay investigation into its present condition.

But wild as it is, it is not "all barren." The native rudeness and untamed simplicity of these upland solitudes, become subjects of the deepest interest to those who find pleasure in contemplating nature in her sterner moods and more austere aspects; while they secure to the

qua mons dicebatur *Thor*; quæ Syris et Chaldeis efferebatur *Thur*. Radicem hujus conservant Cambri in verbo *dywre* surgere, etc. Inde etiam nomina montium et monticularum apud varias gentes. Ex. gr. *Dyr*. Atlas lingua Mauritanis, Taurus mons Asiæ. Tauri montes Sarmatis. Taurini gentes Alpinæ. Turinum caput Pedemontii, &c. Thuringi vel Toringi montani, monticolæ.

* Nimborum patria. *Virgil*.

† In this forest are three remarkable things; the first is a high rock called Crockern Torr, where the parliament for stannary courts is kept. * * * The second is Childe of Plymstock's tomb. * * * The third is some acres of wood and trees that are a fathom about, and yet no taller than a man may touch the top with his hand, which is called Wistman's Wood. *Survey of Devon*, p. 223.

antiquary, means of investigating the earliest history of the island, which he would vainly seek in more favoured districts, where cultivation has obliterated the venerable memorials of primitive times.

Finding among the wild uplands of Devon the most unquestionable vestiges of a period of our history, of which so little that is authentic has come down to us, we are scarcely disposed to join in the lament which the sterility of Dartmoor has called forth. As the guardians of many an antique memorial, which in more accessible and attractive spots, would have long since experienced a fate—unhappily but too common—the tors and wilds of the antient Forest of the West find favour in the sight of those who feel that other wants besides those of the body, are legitimate objects of the consideration of an intellectual, not to say, an immortal being. And without any affected or morbid deprecation of the peaceful triumphs of the ploughshare,* nay, with the sincerest wish that every acre of waste, which can be made to bring forth “green herb for the service of man,” may be reclaimed;—until that period arrives, one may be pardoned for regarding with pleasure the wilds of Dartmoor in their primitive state, and may be permitted to rejoice that there are myriads of acres equally unproductive, and far less picturesque, which may justly be required to be subjected to the dominion of agriculture, before *their* “free and unhous’d condition is put in circumscription and confine.”

That there are tracts on the moor, which may be cultivated with success, I do not question for one moment; and that much credit is due to those enterprising individuals, who at this time are engaged in extensive, and to a very encouraging degree, successful attempts to reclaim considerable portions of the waste, I am free to admit. All honour to the cultivator “who makes two blades of grass grow where one only grew before,”—and if it should really come to a question of the production of a sufficient quantity of food for the teeming population of a nation, all other considerations must give way, just as in seasons of great public peril,—a siege or an invasion—the monuments of antiquity, the “gorgeous palaces,” and even the “solemn temples” would be levelled rather than that they should stand to impede the defenders, or to advantage the enemy. But that which would be praiseworthy patriotism in such an extreme case, would, in a less

* Pacantur vomere sylvæ.—Hos.

manifest emergency, be reckless spoliation—such as has been too often perpetrated upon the venerable relics of Dartmoor, without the pretence of a plea of the urgent necessities of the community. One may contemplate with satisfaction such judicious and well-planned efforts as may be seen in the vale of Cowsick near Two Bridges; but it is melancholy to witness the abortive attempts that have been sometimes made on the bleak hill-side, where, after a Rock-pillar has been demolished for a gate-post, and a Cromlech overthrown for a foot-bridge, or a Kistvaen destroyed for a New-take wall, the injudicious effort has been abandoned as hopeless, when irreparable mischief has been done. Even Carrington's honeyed strains fail in inducing us to sympathize with his satisfaction, when exercising the powers of poetic vaticination, "rapt into future times:" he views with delight

The dauntless grasp
Of Industry, assail yon mighty Tors
Of the dread wilderness;

nor shall we, like him, kindle with misplaced indignation, and demand—

Shalt thou alone
Dartmoor! in this fair land, where all beside
Is life and beauty, sleep the sleep of death,
And shame the map of England?

Rather would we subscribe to the opinion expressed by a contemporary writer,* who, in speaking of the present state of the moor, observes, "Perhaps it serves as it is, the gracious purposes of Providence." On this subject alone, I cannot applaud the sentiments of the honoured bard of Dartmoor, as much as admire the attractive forms in which he has embodied them,—here our mountain minstrel seems to have struck the only jarring chord, in the whole compass of the wild harp of the desert.

Those who have climbed the bleak summits of Dartmoor, and threaded the granite labyrinths which perplex their acclivities, must be persuaded that profitable agricultural efforts must be confined to the lower grounds, and every attempt to carry cultivation up to the rugged eminences of the tors can only issue in loss and disappointment. Besides, who will venture to affirm, if Dartmoor could be ploughed to its very crest, and a scanty and precarious crop reaped from corn

* BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, 1833, Vol. xxxiii. 691.

patches 2000 feet above the sea level, that there would be no counter-balance to the dearly-bought benefit. How much of health is now wafted from the mountain's brow over the circumjacent towns and villages. How much of beauty and refreshment is poured down from the perennial fountains of the misty moor upon the smiling lowlands of the South Hams,—of West and Central Devon. Carrington appropriately describes Dartmoor as the “source of half the beauty of Devon's austral meads,” and while he mourns over its native barrenness, justly celebrates its importance to the whole surrounding region, in the bountiful economy of Him who “sendeth His springs into the rivers which run among the hills.”

For other fields
Thy bounty flows eternal. From thy sides
Devonia's rivers flow; a thousand brooks
Roll o'er thy rugged slopes; 'tis but to cheer
Yon Austral meads unrivall'd, fair, as aught
That bards have sung, or fancy has conceiv'd,
'Mid all her rich imaginings.

Would the same fertility and the same loveliness then be produced, if there were no condensing apparatus set up in Nature's wondrous laboratory, amidst the wilds of Dartmoor? The primal paradise of Eden was not perfect without the “river which went out to water the garden, and was thence parted into four heads.”† Would Devon challenge the envied designation of the garden of England, if the Urn of Cranmere were broken and dry? Where would be the characteristic amenities of the Land of Promise—those striking features which mark Devonshire as the Canaan of the West—“a good land,—a land of brooks of water—of fountains that spring out of valleys and hills—a land of wheat, and barley, of milk and honey—a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass;”‡ where, but for Dartmoor, to which must be attributed mainly, the fact that this inspired description may be applied to Devon, without figure, accommodation, or vain glory. Since then, the poet traces so much of the beauty of the lowlands to the rugged steepes of the central wilderness, and philosophers regard Dartmoor as the source of much of the

* It is not a little satisfactory to find that these views of the *meteorological* importance of Dartmoor, are countenanced by practical men of high scientific reputation, and local knowledge.

† GEN. ii. 10. ‡ DEUT. viii. 7, 8, 9.

fertility of the surrounding region, the admirers of its wild simplicity may be pardoned for hoping that other means may be found for rendering its wide expanse productive, without impairing its solitary grandeur, or destroying its venerable memorials of aboriginal antiquity.

Nor is this hope visionary. I rejoice to find that it is the deliberate opinion of one of the most enterprising of the modern experimentalists* on Dartmoor, that the pasturing of cattle on the uplands, connected with judicious cultivation in more sheltered spots, is likely to be the most profitable husbandry, upon the whole, and best adapted to the circumstances of the soil and climate. And it is curious to observe that this method, if carried into effect, will probably be little more than a recurrence to the practice of our Celtic forefathers some twenty centuries ago, as I shall have occasion to show, when treating of those relics of antiquity which form the principal subject of this essay.

Rich in Celtic remains, Dartmoor also, in later times, as an antient stannary district and a Royal Forest, urges many claims to our attention—whilst in its present state, as a field of scientific research, a region of picturesque and romantic scenery, and an asylum of old-world customs and language, it can scarcely fail to excite the interest, not only of those whom local partialities might be supposed to influence, but of all others who hold with the great English moralist, that, “whatever withdraws us from the power of the senses,—whatever makes the past, the distant, and the future, predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings.”

To an object so important, the wild uplands of Dartmoor are calculated to minister, and that in no ordinary degree. Who with a particle of sensibility could climb its tor-crowned steeps, traverse its rock-strewn ravines, or penetrate its trackless morasses, without an irresistible impression that every object around belongs to a period of unrecorded antiquity? And who, when thus surrounded by the silent yet eloquent memorials of the mysterious past, will not acknowledge their influence in “withdrawing him from the power of the senses,” and in carrying forward his thoughts to the still more mysterious future? He wanders in a desert encircled with primæval mountains, and beholds nature piling all around in fantastic and mimic masonry, huge masses of granite, as if to mock the mightiest efforts of human art.

* Mr. G. Frean, of Plymouth.

Vast and gloomy castles appear to frown defiance from the beetling crags around. But no mortal hand ever laid their adamantine foundations, or reared their dizzy towers; Nature is the engineer that fortified the heights, thousands of years ago—her's are the massive walls—her's the mighty bastions—her's the granite glacis scarped down to the roaring torrent below—her's the hand that reared those stupendous citadels which fable might have garrisoned with demigods, and beleaguered with Titans; whilst in the recumbent mass that guards the approach, imagination, with scarcely an effort, might discern an archetype of the mystic Sphynx* in kindred porphyry, of proportions far more colossal, and of date far more antient, than that which still looks forth in serene and lonely grandeur, over the sands of the Memphian desert.

There are numerous tracts of the moor, where, around the whole expanse, the eye cannot light upon a single feature that is not pristine, intact, and natural. The entire scene in spots, such as that beyond Tavy-Head, at the foot of Furtor, is of this untamed and primæval character. Not a trace of man's presence or occupancy is to be detected. Even the half-wild cattle which range the other parts of the moor at pleasure, seem to shun the swampy *steppes* of the central wilderness. It is only on the spot that the graphic accuracy and poetic beauty of Carrington's descriptions can be appreciated, when with master hand, he sketches the characteristic features of a scene, which seems to transport you in a moment from the richly cultivated and thickly peopled provinces of England, to some unexplored and desert tract, in the remotest regions of the globe:

Devonia's dreary Alps! and now I feel
The influence of that impressive calm,
That rests upon them. Nothing that has life
Is visible: no solitary flock
At wide will, ranging through the silent moors,
Breaks the deep-felt monotony; and all
Is motionless, save where the giant shades
Flung by the passing cloud, glide slowly o'er
The grey and gloomy wild.

The desert expanse has come down to us rude and inviolate from primæval times. The tors pile their fantastic masses against the sky,

* In the road from Two-Bridges to Tavistock, Dr. Berger and his friend Mr. Necker were both struck at once with the resemblance of a granite rock to the Egyptian Sphynx, in a mutilated state.—CARRINGTON'S *Dartmoor*, Notes, p. 206.

as they first "frowned in the uncertain dawn of time,"—the granite wrecks of some original convulsion still lie scattered "in most admired disorder." The roar of "many an antient river," foaming along its rock-bound channel breaks upon the still silence of the waste, as it did hundreds of ages ago. All bears the impress of unaltered duration and undisturbed solitude.

And if, from a period whose chronology reaches far beyond the epochs of cycles, lustrums, and olympiads, we come down to the æra of monumental antiquity, all is still antique, mysterious, and venerable. The simple and time-worn memorials of unchronicled ages rear their hoary forms amidst the sombre solitudes of the moor. The mossy cairn, surmounted by its primitive unwrought pillar, carries the thoughts back to a period, which outdates the Pyramids and Babylon, —a period when the Mesopotamian patriarchs erected their monumental column as the witness and memorial of the earliest treaties in the history of man. The columnar masses which mark out the sacred inclosure of those rude hypæthral temples, in which our Pagan forefathers worshipped, stand in rough and native simplicity, untouched by the workman's tool. Walls, which fortified the towns of the aboriginal inhabitants, and bridges which spanned the swollen torrents of the desert, yet remain, of ruder and more primitive construction, than the Cyclopæan architecture of far-famed Mycenæ. And desolate as Dartmoor is,—with thousands of acres now destitute even of a turf-cutter's cabin, considerable vestiges of antient dwellings may still be traced in various parts of the Forest and its precincts—

E'en here
Man, rude untutor'd man, has liv'd, and left
Rude traces of existence.—CARRINGTON.

ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS. And we shall observe that these traces are eminently characteristic of the people, whom we conclude from the testimony of history to have been the inhabitants of this part of the island, many centuries before the arrival of Julius Cæsar in Britain. To that accurate observer and faithful *Commentator* on what he saw, we are indebted for a brief but important notice of the inhabitants of the country he invaded. *Britanniæ pars interior ab iis incolitur, quos natos in insula ipsa memoria proditum dicunt: maritima pars ab iis, qui prædæ ac belli inferendi causa ex Belgis transierant; et bello illato, ibi remanserunt, atque agros colere*

cæperunt.* How strikingly does this prove that man is the same in every age; and that similar circumstances issue in the same results! More than two thousand years ago the Belgian adventurers, having crossed the Channel, and landed on the coasts of Britain, were enabled, doubtless by the power of numbers, or superior civilization, to make good their footing along the maritime parts, and to drive back the original dwellers to the less inviting, but more secure districts of the interior, just as the English settlers and their transatlantic descendants established themselves on the coasts of America, and thrust back the aboriginal Red men into the forests and savannahs of the North American continent. Thus, before the Roman period of our history, we find two distinct classes, perhaps two distinct races of inhabitants, on the southern coast of England; the origin of one, not doubtful, as they were universally acknowledged to have passed over from the country of the Belgæ, and to have settled in those maritime tracts, which lay opposite to the coast of Gaul, and in parts of which, (Hampshire) their name long remained, and marked an important division of the country. Whence the earlier settlers, who were supposed to have been the aboriginal inhabitants of the island, came, does not appear. Neither Cæsar nor any of the classical writers give the least information on a subject, which has caused no little controversy among antiquaries, but which will probably remain among the many unsolved problems of the origin of nations. Whitaker the learned historian of Manchester, maintains that Britain was peopled from Gaul about one thousand years before the Christian æra, and that the Belgæ, whom Cæsar mentions, followed more than six hundred years after.† I am not aware whether there is any better authority for this, than Richard of Cirencester, a chronicler of the middle ages, who records under the date, Anno Mundi M.M.M. *Circa hæc tempora cultam et habitatam primum, Britanniam arbitrantur nonnulli, cum illam salutarerent Græci, Phænices que mercatores*. If Richard be the only voucher for this exposition, as it appears to be, of

* The interior of Britain is inhabited by people who are reported by tradition to have been indigenous in the island; the maritime parts are possessed by invaders who came over from the country of the Belgæ, allured by the hope of booty, and having made war upon the Britons, established themselves in the country, and began to cultivate the land.—CÆSAR, *Bell. Gall. lib.* v. 10.

† In considering the question of the aboriginal population of our island, it is important to remark the opinion of an observer so accurate, and a reasoner so judicious, as Sir R. C. Hoare, the celebrated Wiltshire antiquary, on the æra of the erection

Cæsar's text, those who are acquainted with the doubts which have been raised as to the sources of the monk's information, without neglecting his testimony altogether, will not be inclined to overrate its importance. Polwhele, our western antiquary, contends that the aborigines mentioned by Cæsar did not come from Gaul, but that they arrived by sea from the eastern parts of Asia* (Armenia as he supposes), and voyaging by the straits of Gibraltar, at length reached the westernmost coasts of Britain. Having settled in Cornwall and Devonshire, in after times, they were visited in succession by Phœnician and Greek traders, who made the distant and perilous voyage in search of tin, for which metal the Cassiterides were already famous, at this early period of history. In support of his favourite theory, he goes so far as to trace vestiges of these aboriginal settlers in the name of one of our Dartmoor rivers, and in that of a parish on its banks. Ermington is doubtless still generally pronounced *Armeton* by the common people, and this our enthusiastic antiquary regards as evidence that the Asiatic navigators might have debarked at the mouth of the Erme (Arme) in Bigbury bay, and named the country which was to be their future habitation, in memory of the land they had left. If they did so, their Danmonian descendants some three thousand years after, imitated their example, when they emigrated from the mouth of the Plym to an island in the Pacific, and founded a New Plymouth at the Antipodes.

But the hypothesis of Asiatic colonization, rests on
RELIGION. far better support than this questionable etymology.

The emigration of bodies of people in every age has been attended with one universally accompanying circumstance,—the importation of their religious opinions and rites into the country of their adoption. That there is a striking similarity between the religious opinions and sacred rites of the Druids, and those of the eastern nations, none acquainted with the testimony of antient authors on the subject will venture to question. From the undeniable

of Stonehenge. He supposes that the inner circle was the work of the original Celts, and that the exterior trilithons were subsequently added by the Belgæ,—*Vide infra*.

* "The researches of the learned are daily adding to an accumulation of evidence which tends to prove that the aborigines of Britain sprang from the nations of the East; that Druidism like the Brahminical superstition was but a modification of Arkite worship, and that we must look to a period long anterior to the dispersion of the Celtic tribes for the primeval history of the British race."

DAVIDSON'S *British and Roman Remains near Azminster*, p. 6. London, 1833.

evidence which Holy Writ affords, we know how popular and universally prevalent was the worship of the heavenly bodies among the nations of the east, and with what frantic eagerness and perverse obstinacy, even the well-instructed Hebrews recurred again and again, to idolatrous practices, which the Holy One of Israel had expressly forbidden on the pain of his hottest displeasure, and had punished with the severest vengeance, times out of number. Still "they tempted and displeased the Most High God," and "burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven."* And this worship the Israelites derived from "the nations round about," for so early as the times of Job, it was the pardonable boast of that upright man, that he had not been carried away by the general prevalence of idolatry in the land of Uz; his heart had not been enticed, nor his mouth kissed his hand, if he beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in her brightness.† The Baal or Bel of the Canaanites and the Phœnicians, was evidently the same deity whom Diodorus describes as the object of worship in a northern island over against the Celtæ of Gaul. They had a large grove and temple of a round form, to which the priests resorted to sing the praises of Apollo.‡ We have still etymological vestiges§ of the name of this oriental divinity, and remains of such circular temples yet in existence, among the wilds of Dartmoor. But whilst the Druids in the time of Cæsar, ministered to the popular propensities by sanctioning the worship of idols, and, perhaps, the use of images, there are just reasons for the belief that these, with other practices, were the result of their intercourse with the Phœnicians, who seem also to have introduced the worship of their favorite goddess, Astarte, or Bali Sama, i.e., the queen of heaven.¶ Their earlier and purer practice seems to have been much more nearly allied to the Sabæan

* 2 KINGS xxiii. 5.

† JOB xxxi. 26, 27.

‡ DIOD. SIC., book iii.

§ Borlase, the Cornish antiquary, asserts that the old British appellation of the Scilly Islands was Sulleh or Sylleh, signifying rocks consecrated to the sun.—*Antiq. Cornwall*, ii. c. 19.

¶ The Rev. Vernon Harcourt asserts that the Phœnicians introduced the worship of Baal, or Fire, five hundred years before the Christian æra, among the aboriginal inhabitants of Ireland, whom he calls Memonii, and whom he describes as Arkites. "There are two places," observes this author, "called Magh Turey, one in the north, the other in the south; and at both, not long before the Christian æra, that is about the time when the Arkites received a strong reinforcement by a Scythian swarm from the north, called Tuath de Doinan, a battle was fought between the Belgæ, the worshippers of Bel or Baal on the one side, and the Danans, i.e. the Danai, the Dionusans, the Arkites, and the Caledonian, or Deucaledonian, Diluvian tribes on the other."—*Doct. Deluge*, vol. i. 487.

creed—the worship of the Sun under the form of fire—and abhorrence of every kind of image of the invisible God. They also appear to have scrupulously abstained from using any tool in the construction of their temples and altars,—a practice utterly unknown to the classical antients, and which seems again to point to an eastern origin, and even to a traditionary acquaintance with the express ordinance of the Almighty, for the guidance of the Israelites in this particular (Ex. xx. 25). But the Druids had their hill altars,—and sacred groves,—in exact correspondence again, with those idolatrous practices of the east with which Holy Writ has made us familiar;—and what is worthy of remark, the favourite tree with the primitive British priesthood, for this purpose, was the oak, the very tree which is specified by the prophet Isaiah as connected with the worst atrocities of paganism, in the practice of his idolatrous countrymen, whom he accuses of “inflaming themselves with idols among the oaks (*margin*), slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks” (Is. lvii. 5). The Druids, like the Chaldæans, cultivated the science of astronomy (doubtless in connection with astrology), and were great observers of the motions of the heavenly bodies.* But the most remarkable point of similarity is the belief in the transmigration of souls, which the Druids are believed to have held in common with the Gymnosophists of antient India. Taliessin the Welsh bard, affirms that he had experienced in his own person the changes of the metempsychosis; “I have died, I have revived; a second time was I formed,—I have been a blue salmon; I have been a dog; I have been a stag; I have been a roebuck on the mountains; I have been a cock; I have been Aedd; returning to my former state, I am now Taliessin.”† All these facts‡ may fairly be brought to support the hypothesis of an oriental colonization of the south western parts of England previously to the immigration of the Belgæ from Gaul, B. C. 350.§ It may however be objected that although an earlier peopling of Britain than this might have taken place, it does not thence necessarily follow that the settlers might not have crossed the narrow seas from the continent, at a

* Hi terræ mundique magnitudinem et formam motus cœli ac siderum, ac quod Di velint scire profitentur.—POMP. MELA, lib. ii. c. 2.

† DAVIES'S *Mythology of the Druids*, p. 573.

‡ Pliny was evidently struck with the same similarity. Britannia hodieque eam attonite celebrat tantis ceremoniis, ut dedisse Persis videri possit.—PLIN. *lib. xxx.*

§ Diogenes Laertius says the Druids and Gymnosophists of India were similar.—*Proem. 4, 5, ed. H. Steph. 1594.*

remoter period, for instance, A.M. 3000, as Whittaker supposes. To this it is answered, that few, if any, traces of similar religious doctrines are observable across the continent, in a direction which a wave of population from the east, would have taken, had it reached the shores of Britain, in one flow, or by successive undulations. Druidism had taken no root among the German nations, and in Gaul, where it flourished in the latter times of the Roman republic, it was not indigenous. Cæsar expressly records that the Druidical discipline was discovered in Britain, and transmitted thence to Gaul.* The Rev. V. Harcourt, in his elaborate and valuable researches into the vestiges of the Scripture doctrine of the Noachic deluge among the heathen nations of antiquity, traces them in their traditions, mythology, and worship, as well as in the etymology of the names of persons and places. He adduces a mass of remarkable testimony, to prove that the Arkite worship (which he believes Druidism to have been, in its purer and more antient form) prevailed from India and China in the east, to Britain in the west. In proceeding with an account of the existing monumental relics of Dartmoor, it will be curious to remark in how many particulars they appear to bear out the theory which this learned author has brought forward. Without therefore attempting now to pursue further the inquiry, how far his opinions support the hypothesis of oriental colonization, suffice it for the present purpose to observe, that an aboriginal people, whose manners and religion indicate an Asiatic origin, in remote times occupied the south western peninsula of England,—the regions known to the Romans by the name of Danmonium or Dunmonium, and included with the Scilly Isles, in the loose geography of the Greeks, under the general name Cassiterides. Here then “the fierce Danmonii dwelt,” from the times of the Cæsars, up to a period lost in the obscurity of unrecorded antiquity, and here, as a modern author justly observes, our British ancestors cut off from all intimate intercourse with the civilized world, partly by their remoteness, and partly by their national character, retained their primitive idolatry, long after it had yielded in the neighbouring countries, to the polytheistic corruptions of Greece and Egypt.†

Such is the light which, when collected, the few scattered rays

* *Disciplina in Britannia reperta, atque in Galliam translata esse existimatur.*—CÆSAR *Bell. Gall.* lib. vi. 13.

† REV. J. B. DEANE.

of recorded truth and just inference cast upon the obscure page of aboriginal British history. We shall now proceed to an examination of the monumental relics, still existing on Dartmoor, and observe how strikingly they illustrate the manners of the people and period to which we have ventured to assign them, and how exactly they correspond with the testimony of history, on this interesting subject.

MONUMENTAL
RELICS.

CIRCULAR
TEMPLE,
OR
SACRED CIRCLE.

Of the Druidical antiquities of Dartmoor, none is more conspicuous than their circular shrines or temples. We have no example approaching either in vastness or extent, to the massive proportions of Stonehenge, but there are not wanting specimens equally decisive in character, although inferior in magnitude. The Sacred Circle was evidently a rude patriarchal temple* such as the feelings of the people and the genius of their religion demanded, and for the construction of which, the region supplied ample and appropriate materials. The accidents of nature have more to do with the decision of matters of this kind, than we are usually free to allow. The colossal architecture of Egypt had its birth in the granite quarries of that peculiar country; the bituminous plains of Babylon suggested the employment of brick in the construction of the vast edifices of that "lady of kingdoms." The granite tors of Cornwall and Devon, in like manner, furnished materials for the apparatus of Druidical worship, abundant in supply and suitable in form and quality—as to form, sublime from their very simplicity and vastness; and as to durability, imperishable as the hills from which they were taken, rude and untouched by the workman's tool, as when dislodged by some primæval convulsion of nature from their original position.

This rude simplicity and complete absence of all preparation in the materials of the sacred circle, mark the high antiquity of the Dartmoor specimens, and in this respect invest them with an interest superior to the majestic, but artificial trilithons of Stonehenge. The ingenious theory adopted by Sir R. C. Hoare appears to be most accurate and just; being fortified by such authority, it will scarcely be disputed, and will lead to some curious and interesting conclusions.

* "That they (*scil.* sacred circles) were erected for the double purposes of religious and civil assemblies, may be admitted without controversy.—SIR R. C. HOARE, *Ant. Wills*, vol. ii. 118.—*Lond.* 1812.

This laborious antiquary sanctions the opinion that the inner circle at Stonchenge, was the rude primitive temple of the Celtic tribes, but that the grand peristyle of trilithons, with its mortised imposts, was added by the Belgæ after they had driven the Celts from their former possessions. Since, then, we have no approaches to the trilithon structure in *our* existing specimens of the columnar circle, we may infer that the Belgæ were unable to penetrate into the stronger country of the Danmonian Britons, and that here they preserved their religion and sacred fabrics, free from Belgic innovation.

Although the Druids inculcated the opinion that the Deity regarded not the worship which was offered to him in temples whose canopy was less sublime and comprehensive than the boundless expanse of heaven, they held it indispensable that certain spots should be set apart and dedicated to his peculiar service; and so profound was the respect, and so unhesitating the obedience, with which the mandates of this extraordinary priesthood were regarded, that they appear to have had nothing more to effect for the preservation of these sanctuaries from violation, than to mark their limits by some well defined boundary—a boundary which would denote the extent of the sacred area, without obstructing the view of the rites and ceremonies therein performed. This object, which the Hellenic nations accomplished by celebrating their sacred rites, in front of their temples and beneath their porticoes, the Druids attained, by performing them within a circle* formed of unwrought columnar masses, rude from the neighbouring tor.

All the Druidical temples were hypæthral,—perfectly open to the sky,—and although the mighty columns of Stonehenge are connected by horizontal imposts, in no instance do there appear the least vestiges of any provision for a roof. On Dartmoor, the stones which form the circle, are for the most part insufficient in height for any such purpose, nor have the uprights ever been furnished with imposts; the size of the area would also have precluded any attempt at covering it with a roof, even if the principles of their religion had not denounced any idea of this kind. Our Danmonian sacred inclosures are therefore

* "Stone circles occur at Malabar and the island of Tinian in the Pacific Ocean." Strabo says that the Persians "had great inclosures called Pyræthia, in the middle of which was an altar, called also Pyræthion." Fosbroke, who notes this, asks, "were these stone circles?"—*Encyclop. of Antiq.* ii. p. 922, 4to.—*Lond.* 1825.

of the same description as the fine Druidical temple at Abury in Wiltshire, as to the size, form, and character of the stones of which they are constructed, and the avenues with which they are connected: those avenues are held by some antiquaries to be decisive, that the circles with which they are connected, are *Dracontia*—temples in which serpent-worship was celebrated. In the great Dracontium at Carnac in Brittany, which the Rev. J. B. Deane examined and described with so much learned accuracy, he notices the serpentine form in the avenues, “A spectator standing upon one of the cromlech hills *round which the serpent sweeps*, cannot but be struck with the evidence of design which appears in the construction of these avenues.”* Here the ophite character of the temple is manifest, but as I have been unable to detect any traces of a serpentine form, beyond a very slight deviation from a direct line, in the Danmonian avenues, I should not be disposed to class the Dartmoor temples with the *Dracontia*, as some antiquaries have done. That the Druids were far from exempt from those feelings of veneration for the serpent, which prevailed so extensively in almost all the forms of idolatry, whatever might have been symbolized thereby, is yet sufficiently evident, from the knowledge we have of their peculiar rites and ceremonies.†

The circular form has been regarded as indicating the solar worship, but when found, as is often the case, in connection with the avenue, the orbicular part is held to represent the head of the serpent. But Mr. Harcourt's theory imparts new interest to the whole subject. His learned researches have led him to the conclusion that the worship of the serpent is to be traced to a traditionary recollection of the universal deluge, which was symbolized by an enormous water-serpent coiled around the globe,—that this corrupted form of Arkite worship was in many respects identical with Druidism, and that the attempts to introduce the Solar, instead of the Aquatic idolatry, frequently gave rise to fierce controversies, and bloody conflicts, between the priests of the respective rituals, and their partizans. If the conclusions of the learned author are just, may not vestiges of these aboriginal polemics still be discernible in our monumental relics, and

* REV. J. B. DEANE, p. 370.

† Our British ancestors, remarks the Rev. J. B. Deane, were not only worshippers of the Solar deity, symbolized by the serpent, but held the serpent, independently of his relation to the sun, in peculiar veneration.

indications of the struggle between ophiolatry and solar worship, be sometimes detected in the same structure.

We have already noticed that a knowledge of the great Scripture fact of the universal deluge, may be somewhat indistinctly traced in these remarkable monuments of our remote ancestors; but if Mr. Harcourt is justified in his conclusion, that Diodorus Siculus describes Druidical circles, when he records that certain votive memorials in the island of Samothrace, were raised by the inhabitants, in grateful remembrance of escape from a flood, an additional argument is afforded in favour of this opinion.

These temples or inclosures, approach more or less closely to the circular form. They are of various dimensions, and constructed of granite blocks of irregular shape, and by no means uniform in size. Taking a general view of monuments of this class in our island, some antiquaries have fixed the number of stones, as ranging from twelve to twenty-seven; it is stated also, that they are more frequently found of the former number, than any other. This number is still preserved in the inner circle at Abury. This conjecture, however, seems to be much at variance with conclusions drawn from our examination of Dartmoor specimens. In some instances we found the number twenty-seven, but we also observed circles consisting of twenty-five, fifteen, twelve, eleven, and even ten; the height of the stones above the surface, ranging from seven feet and a half, to eighteen inches. In the latter cases they have probably been mutilated. The circumference varies from thirty-six feet to three hundred and sixty, which is the size of the Grey Wethers, below Sittaford Tor, the largest, it is believed, in Devonshire.

The columnar, or sacred circle,* sometimes has a Cairn or Kistvaen within its inclosure—sometimes, as at Merivale and Longstone, it is found in connection with avenues;—at Grey Wethers, there are two circles, whose circumferences almost touch each other,—and one example has been observed, enclosing two concentric circles. The columnar inclosure designed for religious purposes,† is at once clearly

* Mr. Harcourt explains the celebrated story of Gyges' magic ring, by referring it to Druidism. "The ring was a Druid's circle, and he disappeared, by hiding himself in the mystic cell, from which he could see without being seen."—*Doct. Deluge*, vol. i. 473.

† As to other circles, some particulars are especially worth notice, viz., that Druids of the circle and bards of the inclosure, are mentioned in antient British poems.—*Ant. Wills*, vol. ii. 122.

distinguishable from the hut-circles or foundations of ruined dwellings, so numerous on the moor. The stones, of which the former are composed, are in all cases set up at intervals of greater or less extent ; whereas the latter clearly indicate a totally different purpose, the stones being set as closely together, as their rugged and unwrought form would permit.

These obvious characteristics will therefore mark with sufficient distinctness, the purposes for which these rude structures were exclusively appropriated to religious rites—and it may be concluded, that, even when used for secular purposes, the assemblies would be congregated within the sacred precincts, only on grave occasions, and under the solemn sanctions of religion, just as the Roman senators held their sittings in the temples of the gods.

The notion of columnar circles forming places of assembly, for judicial, or other grave purposes of a secular character, identifies also these relics with some of the most venerable and interesting records of early Hebrew history. We are forcibly reminded of the twelve stones, taken at the command of Joshua, out of the channel of Jordan, and erected in Gilgal—the very name intimating the circular arrangement ; for Gilgal means any thing round or spherical. And when we bear in mind that Gilgal was one of the principal places where Samuel *judged* Israel—in his circuits, as ruler of the land—we shall not only be led to the conclusion, that amidst the wilds of Dartmoor, may be found a veritable counterpart of one of the primitive courts of Hebrew judicature, but shall also infer additional proof of aboriginal oriental colonization.

Those curious relics of the aboriginal period of our history, the Stone Avenues had attracted little notice, and in-
 STONE AVENUE, deed had been scarcely mentioned by our local
 OR
 PARALLELITHON. topographers or antiquaries, before our examination of those near Merivale bridge, in the year 1827. Polwhele, who, in the most systematic and elaborate manner, classifies and enumerates every remnant of Druidical antiquity, in Dartmoor, mentions the avenue only in an incidental and cursory manner, in his minute account of the Drewsteington cromlech, which, he says, “is placed on an elevated spot—overlooking a sacred way, and *two rows of pillars, which mark this processional*” road of the Druids. Lysons, in his county history, makes no mention of any

thing of the kind, although the existence of this curious conformation of stones was well known to the inhabitants of Tavistock and the neighbourhood, under the popular name of the Plague Market. Under that designation, our attention was directed to the spot. No sooner did we mount the slope, than Col. Hamilton Smith instantly detected this interesting and characteristic feature of aboriginal worship, and pronounced the rows of stones to be nothing less than avenues, constructed for the performance of some solemn Arkite ceremonial—probably in connection with the river below, to which their direction evidently pointed. The hypothesis of the purpose for which these avenues were designed, is abundantly confirmed by the examination of similar parallel lines of erect stones in other parts of the moorland district, and by a comparison of the opinions of those antiquaries, who have described stone avenues of a similar character in other places.* On Dartmoor they occur, either singly or in pairs, but always in connection with other aboriginal relics, and most commonly with the columnar Sacred inclosure.

The following features may be also noted, as the result of an examination of the principal specimens to be found on Dartmoor. They are straight on the plain, and never serpentine,—one example is very slightly curvilinear for a short distance. The stones are from two to four feet high,—appear to have been chosen with a view to some degree of uniformity,—and are placed at irregular distances, but generally about three feet and a half apart. The terminating blocks are in most cases of larger size than the others, and the parallel lines stand about four feet and a half asunder. The general direction of the avenues, appears to be from one of the Sacred circles to a neighbouring stream, and in several instances there seems to be preference given to a leaning east and west.

Among the relics of Druidical antiquity, authors have enumerated the Logan Stone and Rock Idol. Of the latter of these, Dartmoor can boast many remarkable specimens. Moulded as they are, as Carrington soothly sings,

Into a thousand shapes
Of beauty and of grandeur,

few are the tors which would not attract attention, and inspire awe,

* The celebrated avenue at Avebury, in Wiltshire, is in immediate connection with the grand Celtic temple at that place, and though longer, is of precisely similar character.

if pointed out for the purposes of worship to an ignorant and superstitious people. But there is no conclusive evidence that such adoration was ever offered by our
 ROCK IDOL. aboriginal forefathers, although Borlase has ventured to particularize and classify these stone deities. To give any accurate notice of objects of this class, would be scarcely less than to enumerate the principal tors on the moor; or rather it would be impossible to discriminate, in a classification, in which the judgment would have far less exercise than the imagination. Some have thought, that a rock basin on any tor, or pile of rocks, is decisive of its mythological character. Polwhele, who is by no means over cautious in admitting the claims of various objects to Druidical honours, judiciously restrains his fancy in this particular, and truly enough observes, that "we are afraid to fix on a Druid-Idol, lest the neighbouring mass should have the same pretensions to adoration, and all the stones, upon the hills, and in the vallies, should start up into divinities."* Yet he thinks "the principal rocks on Dartmoor *might* have been British idols," and is inclined to concede to Blackstone† and Whitstone, near Moreton, the honour of canonization. And when we gaze upon such a mass as Vixen Tor, grand and huge, as it towers above the vale of Walkham, or view such a singular pile as Bowerman's-Nose, on Heighen Down, we can scarcely err in concluding that if the Druids *had* their Rock Idols, these must have ranked high in their granite mythology.

The Logan Stone seems to have formed an important and characteristic feature in the mystic apparatus of Druidism, but there are only one or two specimens now known to exist in Devonshire, and even these have almost, if not entirely, lost the quality which originally gave them fame and distinction. The celebrated Drewsteignton Logan Stone might be repeatedly passed by, without exciting more curiosity or attention than any other huge granite mass, standing aloft in the bed of the river. And it is impossible to traverse the moor in any direction without observing many a similar rock which once might have been a Logan Stone, or might have been easily made to *logg* (vibrate)—so fantastical and singular are the positions in which such superincumbent masses are

* *Historical Views of Devonshire*, p. 53.

† Blackstone and Heltor, as they are commonly called in the neighbourhood.

continually found, balanced on another rock below, so nicely as to admit of the immense bulk being moved, by the application of no more force than the strength of a man's hand. Such curiously adjusted masses seem not to have been unknown to the antients. Pliny, observes Polwhele,* hath evidently the Logan Stone in view, when he tells us that at Harpasa, a town of Asia, was a rock of a wonderful nature, "Lay one finger on it and it will stir; but thrust at it with your whole body and it will not move." But the most curious mention of the Logan by the antients, is that of Apollonius Rhodius; from which it would appear that such rocking stones were sometimes artificial, and raised as funeral monuments, in connection too with *tumuli* or barrows.

In sea-girt Tenos, he, the brothers slew,
And o'er their graves in heapy hillocks threw
The crumbling mould; then with two columns crown'd,
Erected high, the death-devoted ground;
And *one still moves*, how marvellous the tale,
With every motion of the northern gale!

FAWKES, *Argonaut*, b. iv. 1761.

In Wales, such stones are called Maen Sigl, the Shaking Stone, a term equivalent to the Loggan or Logging Stone of Devon and Cornwall. Our vernacular probably still retains the word; and "a great *logging* thing," familiarly and graphically describes any large mass in vibratory motion.

The purposes to which the Logan Stone was applied by the Druids have given rise to no little antiquarian controversy. According to Toland, "the Druids made the people believe that they alone could move these stones, and by a miracle only; by which pretended power they condemned or acquitted the accused, and often brought criminals to confess what could in no other way be extorted from them." Borlase having observed rock basins on the Logan Stones in Cornwall, conjectures that by the means of those basins the Druids made the Logan subservient to their judicial purposes, and applied it as an ordeal to convict or acquit a culprit, by filling or emptying the basin, and by this displacement of the centre of gravity rendered the mass *immoveable*, or the contrary, at pleasure. This ingenious conjecture

* *Hist. View Dev.*, p. 56. Juxta Harpasa, oppidum Asiæ, cautes stat horrenda, uno digito mobilis; eadem, si toto corpore impellatur, resistens.—PLIN. lib. ii. 69.

of the antiquary has been thus felicitously rendered subservient to poetical purposes by Mason—

Behold yon huge
And unhewn sphere of living adamant,
Which pois'd by magic, rests its central weight
On yonder pointed rock; firm as it seems,
Such is its strange and virtuous property,
It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch
Of him whose heart is pure; but to a traitor,
Tho' ev'n a giant's prowess nerv'd his arm,
It stands as fixed as Snowdon.

Fosbroke considers the Logan or Rocking Stone as the “stone of power,” occurring so frequently in the poems of Ossian, according to which authority it appears that the bards walked round the stone singing, and made it move as an oracle of the fate of battle. “He called the grey-haired Snivan, that sang round the circle of Loda, when *the stone of power* heard his voice, and battle turned in the field of the valiant.”

That a crafty and intelligent priesthood like the Druids, should have availed themselves of circumstances so favourable as the singular position of the Logan Stones, is highly probable, but that their being so placed is the effect of natural circumstances there can be no doubt. Norden's explanation may apply to many though not to all the examples. “It is to be imagined that theis stones were thus left at the general floude when the earth was washed awaye, and the *massie* stones remained, as are mightie rocks uncovered, standing upon loftie hills.”

Like many other disputed points of antiquarian
ROCK BASIN. interest, where no contemporary authority or
external evidence can be adduced on either side,
the Rock Basins have afforded a fruitful source of controversy. Whilst some have strenuously advocated their claims to the venerable character of Druidical relics, “others at this doctrine rail,” and attribute their formation to the action of the weather, and to the facility with which the component particles of granite disintegrate under certain circumstances. That numberless hollows or granite masses have been thus naturally formed, no observer of the natural phenomena of Dartmoor will for a moment question. But that *all* these singular relics are to be ascribed to the action of physical causes, will scarcely be admitted by those who have examined such

curious specimens as that on the top of Great Mistor, one of the loftiest hills of the moor. This basin is in a singularly perfect state, in form a circle, three feet in diameter, and eight inches deep. Its sides are regularly formed, rising straight from the bottom, which is flat; a spout or lip is formed in its northern edge. It might be most characteristically described as a pan, excavated in granite (accordingly, Mistor Pan is its popular designation), and it bears such evident marks of artificial preparation, as could scarcely fail to convince any unprejudiced observer.

That this rude and primitive species of basin formed part of the apparatus of Druidism there can be little doubt, but the specific purpose for which they were designed is not so clear. The frequent occurrence of rock basins on the surface of Logan Stones, induced Dr. Borlase to conclude that they were intended to regulate the motion of the Logan Stone. The same author supposes them to have been used for libations of blood, wine, honey, or oil, and describes some as large enough to receive the head and part of the body. Fosbroke unhesitatingly pronounces rock basins to be "cavities *cut* in the surface of a rock, supposed for reservoirs, to preserve the rain or dew in its original purity, for the religious uses of the Druid."* Polwhele observes, "with respect to the use of these basins, I think we may easily conjecture that they were contrived by the Druids, as receptacles of water, for the purpose of external purification by washing and sprinkling. The rites of water-lustration and ablution, were too frequent among the Asiatics, not to be known to the Druids, who resembled the eastern nations in all their religious ceremonies, fashions, and customs. * * From such basins the officiating Druid might sanctify the congregation with a more sacred lustration than usual. In this water he might mix his misletoe, or infuse his oak leaves, for a medicinal or incantatorial potion."

We learn from Mr. Vernon Harcourt that the connection, or rather the identity of Druidism with Arkite worship, may be satisfactorily traced in this remarkable relic of antiquity, the rock basin. In the opinion of the Druids, or of their predecessors in the Arkite priesthood, water was deemed so essential to the mysteries of regeneration, that they took great pains to secure a supply of it in the best way they

* *Encyclop. of Antiq.*, vol. i. p. 75.—*Lond.* 1825. 4to.

could, and for this purpose they excavated basins upon the surface of the rocks in their high places to contain it. The same author notes a curious circumstance, related by an oriental traveller, "There are three large troughs or rock basins, neatly cut out on the flat surface of a granite rock at Axum in Abyssinia; out of which, tradition says, that a great snake, the presiding genius of the flood, who resided in the hollow of the mountain, used to eat."*

The following may be noted as characteristics of the rock basins observed in various parts of Dartmoor. Situation—commonly on the highest spot of the loftiest pile of the tor, very often near the edge of the block in which they are hollowed—in many instances, with a lip or channel, to convey the water from the basin,—bottom, flat,—sides, perpendicular,—depth, from four to eight inches,—form, for the most part circular, and varying in diameter from one foot to three.

CROMLECH. The CROMLECH is, perhaps, the most curious relic of our aboriginal ancestors; and the precincts of Dartmoor can boast one of the finest in the kingdom, which may be pronounced to be the only perfect specimen in Devonshire. Sir R. C. Hoare observes that the Cromlech has been confounded with the Kistvaen, but that he had strong reason for supposing they were raised for different purposes. The true Cromlech, as distinguished from the Kistvaen, generally consists of three rude unwrought stones, artificially fixed in the ground, and supporting a fourth, of an irregular tabular form, as a canopy, in most cases at the height of several feet from the ground; whereas the Kistvaen consists of four, five, or more slabs, forming a kind of rude stone coffin or sarcophagus, fixed in the ground, with a cover-stone for the reception of corpses. Instances occur of four, and even six supporters to the impost in cromlechs; but three is the more usual number. It is singular that Dr. Borlase should never have found more than three supporters, as Trevethy Stone, near St. Cleer in his own county, has seven. He supposes three to have been chosen in preference to a larger number, as not requiring so much nicety in bringing the impost to bear. The masses, of which cromlechs are composed, like the Druidical monuments in general, are rude and unwrought, and appear to have been placed in their present position, rough from their native bed,—and

* *Doct. of Deluge*, vol. ii. 503—6.

untouched, except by the storms of three thousand winters. The term cromlech is of doubtful import, and the researches of antiquaries into its etymology have thrown little light on the purposes for which these primitive monuments were originally designed. Rowlands (*Mona Antiqua Restaurata*) derives the name Cromlech from the Heb. *Carem luach*, which he renders, a *devoted stone* or altar. Sir R. C. Hoare traces the etymology to the British words *crom*, *bending*, or *bowed*, and *llec*, a *broad, flat stone*. Dr. Borlase hazards the conjecture that the word means the *crooked stone*, the impost or quoit being generally of a gibbous or curved form. And with regard to the particular specimen at Drewsteignton, Polwhele is of opinion that the name of the farm on which it stands may be regarded as favouring this etymology, as he thinks Shilston is no more than a corruption of Shilfeston* (by which term the estate is described in antient deeds), which "signifies the shelfstone, or shelving stone.† One of the characteristics of the cromlech is its shelving cover-stone, or quoit as it is more commonly called; and by those who contend that these curious monuments were gigantic altars,‡ raised for the celebration of the bloody rites of Druidism,—this form is supposed to have been adopted to afford the assembled votaries a fuller view of the devoted victim and sacrificing priest, and to allow the blood to run off readily. But whilst standing *by* the altar is a position familiar to all, as the universally prevailing practice among all nations where sacrifices have formed part of the worship of the people, the idea of a priest standing *upon* it is altogether foreign to our notions, and would doubtless appear to be abhorrent to the feelings of the Druids, who seem to have been most scrupulous in inculcating peculiar reverence for places and objects consecrated to the purposes of religion. Such an elevation as that of the Drewsteignton cromlech could never have been reached, except by the help of a ladder or steps. A Cyclopæan staircase of granite blocks

* *Hist. Views Dev.*, p. 70.

† It is worthy of remark that in our genuine Devonshire vernacular the word *shelf* is still pronounced *shil*, and thus far supports Polwhele's notion. Moreover the Anglo-Saxon *scylfe* is not only a *shelf*, but also an *abacus*, a *roof* or *covering*, as rendered by Bosworth, (*Anglo-Sax. Dict.* in voc. *abacus*, *scamnum*, *tabulatam*, *tectum*.) terms which describe with singular accuracy, the cromlech at Shilston, in the parish of Drewsteignton.

‡ Olaus Wormius appears to support this hypothesis. "Ararum structura apud nos est varia. Maxima ex parte congesto ex terra constant tumulo, in ejus summitate, tria ingentia saxa, quartum, illudque majus, latius ac planius, sustinent, fulciunt ac sustentant, ut instar mensæ tribus fulcris innixæ emineat."

might have given access to the surface, but no traces of such an accommodation have ever been found in any of the numerous existing examples. For these and other reasons, we may justly question the hypothesis, which would discover a colossal altar in these remarkable monuments of aboriginal antiquity, and would conclude that this was their original destination. Still they might have been the scene of religious rites, although the cromlech itself was not intended to form an altar, but rather a shrine, or perhaps the tomb of the Arch-Druid or other distinguished personage.

Sir R. C. Hoare considers the absence of human remains in a particular instance as evidence in favour of the cromlech having been intended for an altar; but Dr. Borlase remarks "as the whole frame of the cromlech shows itself to be unfit for an altar of burnt offerings, so I think it points out evidently to us several reasons to conclude that it is a sepulchral monument," though he allows that in his researches he never found bones or arms to support his hypothesis.

Fosbroke quotes Holinshed in support of the altar hypothesis, but although the old chronicler speaks of an altar, it by no means follows that the altar he mentions must be a cromlech. "Cromlechs are further designated as altars by Holinshed, * * before quoted, where after mentioning places compassed about 'with huge stones, round like a ring,' he adds, 'but toward the south was one mightie stone, far greater than all the rest, pitched up in manner of an altar, whereon their priests might make their sacrifices in honour of their gods.'""* A mighty stone (standing singly) might be "pitched up in manner of an altar," without supporters beneath, (for this would destroy its altar-like character, and constitute it a table, *instar mensæ*, as Olaus Wormius has it), and there are thousands on Dartmoor, which only require to be raised on-end, to form altars,† exactly suited to the purposes and genius of Druidism, and closely approaching to the pedestal or truncated form, so generally preferred among the nations of classical antiquity, for this essential and prominent feature in the arrangements of their temples.

* HOLINSHED, v. 45, ed 4to. *Ency. Antiq.*, 508.

† "The huge piles of stones erected from time immemorial, in several parts of Ireland, with immense coverings, raised in due order, are doubtless of Pagan times. Some think them Druidical altars. They have the generical name of *Leaba na Feine*. These words signify the beds of the Phœni, or Carthaginians."—*Ency. Ant.*, 513. From this etymology, I should however infer that these erections were burying places rather than altars.

Another hypothesis regards the Cromlech as a sanctuary or sacred cell,—a place of occasional retreat, for a Druid, and intimately connected with Arkite ceremonies, probably representing the ark itself.

After all the conjectures which have been made, as to the original design of these venerable and interesting relics of unrecorded antiquity, the most reasonable conclusion seems to be that to which such writers as Borlase and Polwhele were mainly led (from their acquaintance with the examples in Cornwall and Devon), viz., that they were chiefly intended as sepulchral monuments raised only to persons of eminence and distinction, although this might not prevent their being used for other purposes. That very curious specimen, the Cromlech of St. Cleer, in Cornwall, is popularly called the Trevethy* Stone, and if this is rightly rendered the *house* or *place of graves*, it would appear that some evidences of antient burials had been found within its area. At least, we are certain that human remains have been discovered beneath the massive canopy of the cromlech, in various instances, although Sir R. Hoare adduces an example, mentioned above, in which a cromlech occurs, surrounded by five kistvaens, all which contained bones; yet none were found under the cromlech itself: but then it must be borne in mind that the learned Wiltshire antiquary, as he himself allows, never had an opportunity of examining a cromlech, his own county not offering the same advantages as are presented to the Danmonian investigator, in the fine specimens which remain in Cornwall and Devon. Polwhele pronounces that the Drewsteignton cromlech “was the sepulchre “of a chief Druid, or of some prince, the favourite of the Druid “order. Hence the cromlech acquired a peculiar degree of holiness; “and sacrifices were performed in view of it, to the manes of the “dead.”† That religious ceremonies were celebrated at or near these singular erections may be inferred from the designations which some of them have traditionally obtained. Fosbroke mentions that the Cromlech, near Marecross in Glamorganshire, is still called the *Old Church*, among the common people.

Mr. Chapple, who wrote an elaborate treatise on the Drewsteign-

* Norden, however, calls it Trethenic, *Casa Gigantis*; but Trevethy or Trethevy is the name by which it is still known in the neighbourhood.

† *Hist. View. Dev.* 94.

ton Cromlech, about seventy years ago, fancied that he had elicited from various careful measurements, an entirely new object, contemplated by the original constructors. He is convinced that it "could not be primarily intended, either as a religious structure, or a sepulchral monument, but was partly designed for sciatherical purposes, and in general, as the apparatus of an astronomical observatory"! Without further adverting to this author's minute calculations and elaborate arguments, it will be generally concluded that cromlechs were more probably erected for sacrificial or sepulchral purposes than for astronomical; and that the theory which is built upon a foundation so fanciful will scarcely demand a serious refutation. The result of one of his calculations may, however, be noticed; as he may possibly be somewhat near the truth, when he infers that upwards of one thousand two hundred years have elapsed since the Drewsteignton Cromlech was erected. Another calculation which Mr. Chapple made is likely to be accurate, as he had real data, and not imaginary premises to found it upon. He computes the superincumbent quoit to contain 216 cubic feet, nearly, and calculates its weight at sixteen tons and sixteen pounds. When we consider that this huge mass of granite rock is supported at the height of nearly seven feet from the ground, and has preserved its position for, perhaps, at least twenty centuries, we should be unjust in forming a low estimate of the mechanical skill of the people who could construct such a massive and durable fabric.

The Kistvaen, Cistvaen, or Stone Chest, has been
 KISTVAEN. thought to differ from the cromlech only in size; but even if both were designed for sepulchral purposes, their formation is essentially different. By the term Kistvaen is commonly understood, stones placed edgewise, inclosing a small space of ground, and covered with a similar stone. "Of this relic of British antiquity," says Sir R. C. Hoare, "I am enabled to speak with certainty, if, by its form and name, it did not speak for itself; it is composed of several stones, set upright, with a large one incumbent, thus forming a stone coffin or chest, in which the ashes or bones of the deceased were deposited."* Sometimes it is found on the summit of a cairn, as at Molfra, Cornwall, but I have observed no example of this description in Devonshire. Sometimes it is embedded in the cairn, and

* *Ant. Wills*, vol. ii., p. 115.

one of this kind remains on the highest part of Cosdon hill. One we noticed near a trackway, below Rippon Tor, within the inclosure of one of the hut circles, or foundations of aboriginal habitations, and which would therefore not appear to be designed for sepulture. I observed and measured a fine specimen, in June, 1846, about a furlong south of Hound Tor, within a circular inclosure (constructed of slabs closely set), twenty-six yards in circumference. The Kistvaen itself is formed of four stones,—one of the lateral slabs remains almost upright in its original position; it is not less than six feet one inch long, one foot in average thickness, and fifteen inches wide. At the south end, the head or foot-stone remains erect, two feet three inches broad, and thus giving the breadth of this aboriginal sarcophagus. The other side and end stones are thrown down. Kistvaens are found in connection with the sacred circle, and with cairns, as above described; but they are more usually observed *simply* placed, i.e., independently of any other relic. In the centre is frequently seen a circular excavation, from which, in most cases, there is good reason for supposing a cinerary urn to have been removed, as in many instances both urns and bones have been found within these primitive depositories. Kistvaens, in barrows, with sepulchral remains, according to Sir R. C. Hoare, are usually found in barrows, at the broad or eastern end.

BARROW
AND
CAIRN.

The Barrow, or Tumulus, is too well known as a primitive monumental mound to require any lengthened description. Where stones were not abundant, the soil heaped together at once protected the remains of the dead,—and formed their monument. But where stones of convenient size abounded, as on Dartmoor, the monuments of the departed were raised by an accumulation of stones all of a size, to be easily carried by a man, since we learn that every person in the army, or community, or town, brought one stone to the cairn, as the Roman soldiers were each accustomed to bring a helmet full of earth to the tumulus, and thus was formed the cairn or carnedd, which Sir R. C. Hoare observes, resembles the barrow both in shape and purport, but differs in its materials and situation. Some authors distinguish between Cairn and Carnedd, regarding the latter as a place of sacrifice, the former of burial. But Sir R. C. Hoare pronounces that several have been opened without any appearance of

sepulchral remains being detected, and thence concludes that many cairns or artificial aggregations of stones are merely heaps of memorial, —raised for the purpose of commemorating some remarkable event or transaction. The venerable and unerring records of divine history afford a well-known example of the existence of this custom, in the earliest ages of the world, when Jacob raised a heap of stones in attestation of the compact of reconciliation and amity between himself and his father-in-law, Laban; and in the terms employed, and the ceremonies resorted to, it is not a little curious and instructive to trace indications of the several purposes to which similar monuments were alike applied by the Mesopotamian patriarchs, and by our Celtic forefathers.

In this highly interesting record we have preserved even some minute details of the process of forming the monumental erection, after the conflicting parties had adjusted the preliminaries of the compact. “Now, therefore,” said Laban, “come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou, and let it be for a witness between me and thee.” The effects of the appeal made to the domestic charities and kindest feelings of our nature are seen in the construction of that kind of simple but significant monument, which was no doubt the recognised symbol and memorial of similar transactions. Jacob, as the chief of his clan or household, first chooses a columnar stone, MAEN, or ROCK PILLAR, such as are frequently seen on Dartmoor, and then calls upon his family and followers to collect other stones of a form suitable for the construction of a cairn or barrow. “And Jacob took a stone and set it up for a pillar. And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones and made an heap, and they did eat there upon the heap.” We find that the word here rendered heap* properly means any round accumulation, the Hebrew root implying, in its primary sense, something rolled into a spherical form. Hence commentators have imagined that the stones thus collected might have formed a circular mound, with a single stone erect in the centre, and that it was upon this rudely constructed inclosure the people sat, when “they did eat there upon the heap,” whilst the central pillar might have been an altar, of which arrangement there are many Druidical examples, especially when the sur-

* Gal. *acervus, cumulus, in rotundum aggestus*.—SIMONIS *Lex. Heb.* in voc.

rounding inclosure is a sacred or columnar circle. But the patriarchal monument, which we are now examining, was more probably a simple cairn or round stone barrow (*Bouvos* in the Septuagint), with a rock pillar elevated in the centre; and as all the family and retainers seem to have been called upon to carry stones to the heap, it appears to have been intended to impress upon their memory the transaction in which they had been engaged, and thus to constitute them all so many witnesses of the covenant into which their chiefs had entered. That this cairn was primarily designed to attest and perpetuate the treaty of reconciliation and amity, we are expressly told, and the names which the patriarchs respectively gave it,—each in his proper tongue, leave no room for doubt on this point. Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha; but Jacob called it Galeed, both importing the same thing, the heap of witness. But Laban appears to have added a further designation, which indicates another use to which these cairns were applied. It was also called Mizpeh—i.e. a beacon or watch-tower; for he said, “The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.” Placed on some of the loftiest peaks of Dartmoor, the cairns were doubtless used as most suitable watch-towers; and when alarm was necessary, the flaming pile raised upon them would be a conspicuous signal to the whole surrounding country. A beacon kindled upon the cairn on the top of Cosdon, often, perhaps, roused the warriors of North Devon, whilst it would be also seen from Hey Tor, and thus spread the alarm through East Devon and the South Hams. The mountain retains the name of Cosdon *Beacon* to this day. Furthermore, the mound raised by the patriarchs on this memorable occasion probably answered the purpose of a landmark or boundary,—“And Laban said to Jacob, This heap be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap unto me, to do me harm.” Such were the purposes, among others, to which these primitive monuments appear to have been applied; nor can we doubt that the counterpart of the Heap of Witness, piled up some four thousand years ago in the wilds of Syria, is to be found in many of the cairns and barrows of our British ancestors.

Many of the cairns on Dartmoor, as those which gave name to Three Burrow Tor, at the southern extremity, are popularly but incorrectly called barrows, the simple and descriptive designation of

the latter being conveyed in the words, *Sepulchrum cespes erigit*, a monument formed of the sod, whereas the cairn is constructed of stones, whence in the rocky wilds of Devonshire, where these materials are abundant, the cairn is frequent, while the true sod barrow is of comparatively rare occurrence. On the other hand, in a more champaign region, such as the Wiltshire downs, the barrow, in every shape, is found to prevail. Of the four principal kinds* which Sir R. Hoare enumerates, we have numerous specimens of the first kind, the Long Barrow, on the moorland heights of Devon. These are thought by this learned author to have been clearly alluded to by the celebrated Danish antiquary, Olaus Wormius, when describing *royal* barrows, in the form of a large ship (*Regii tumuli ad magnitudinem et figuram carinæ navis*)—it would seem, keel upwards. Mr. Harcourt points out this form as identifying this kind of monumental relic with that traditionary knowledge of the deluge, and veneration for the ark, which prevailed so extensively among the antient nations of the world—"It is not difficult to account for the reversed position of the ship; for when the first wanderers over the ocean desired to have a place of worship, to which they might repair in bad weather, with the least possible deviation from their antient usages, it would naturally occur to them, that by hauling their ships on shore and turning their keel upwards, they would obtain at once an object of religious reverence and a shelter from the storm."† But, whatever might have given rise to the form, and to whatever other purposes the barrow or cairn might have been applied, its sepulchral character will not admit of question; although Sir R. Hoare thinks it wonderful that such gigantic mounds should have been raised for the deposit of a few human bodies, but in this remark seems to betray the want of his usual acumen, as it is evident on very slight reflection that magnitude was the only means by which monuments of such simple materials could be rendered conspicuous, distinctive, or permanent. But our Wiltshire antiquary admits that some cairns have been proved sepulchral, and as to barrows there can be no doubt, though both, as we have already seen, may have been applied to other

* 1—Long Barrow; 2—bowl-shaped; 3—bell-shaped; 4—Druids' Barrow. The three latter forms are scarcely likely to occur where stone barrows or cairns prevail, as in Devonshire.

† *Doct. Del.*, ii. 272.

purposes. And with regard to their size being disproportioned to their object as monumental erections,—in proof of what has been advanced above, Polwhele records the opening of a cairn on Haldon, by Rev. Mr. Swete, of Oxton, in the centre of which was found a *single cinerary urn*, though the cairn was more than two hundred feet in circumference. We may, therefore, believe Silbury to have been a colossal monument (as well as a hill-altar*), especially, as this Wiltshire wonder, vast as it is, shrinks into comparative insignificance when contrasted with the tumulus of Ninus, near the city of Nineveh, which, according to Ctesias, was nine furlongs in height and ten in breadth!

This method of burial was continued in our own isle down to the Saxon æra. Thus, in Caernarvonshire, Bedn Gwortigern, still preserves the memory of the Grave of Vortigern,—a large Carnedd or Stone barrow. Whittaker (*Hist. Manchester*, ii. 140), quotes Adamnan's Life of Columba, (*lib. i.*, c. 33,) to show that it continued a century later, as the burial of a person is thus expressly described. "*Socii congesto lapidum acervo sepelierunt.*"

A simpler commemorative monument is the Rock
 ROCK PILLAR. Pillar, or rude Stone Obelisk—similar, probably, to that pillar which Jacob erected on the above occasion, and still more like that which he had previously set up at Bethel to commemorate the gracious manifestation of his Divine presence, which the God of his fathers had vouchsafed, and the promise to his countless posterity of that whole land on which he lay a forlorn and houseless wanderer. In the former case, where the pillar stood only as the witness to former transactions between man and man, we have no mention of any ceremonial of dedication. But the pillar which was raised to transmit to future generations the remembrance of the heavenly vision of the Most High appears to have been dedicated by the patriarch as marking a spot consecrated by the manifestation of the Almighty Presence, and regarded by him as none other than the House of God and the Gate of Heaven. The sacred historian writes, that Jacob took the stone that he had put for

* Mr. Harcourt is of opinion that in the conical or pyramidal barrow may be traced a symbolical representation of Ararat, a mountain held sacred by many nations as the spot on which the Ark rested after the Deluge. "The pyramid, like all other sacred mounts, was a memorial of Mount Ararat."—*Doct. Del.*, ii. 252.

his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and put oil upon it. "This passage," says Burder, "evinces of how great antiquity is the custom of considering stones in a sacred light, as well as the anointing them with consecrated oil." And in speaking of blocks of stone still worshipped in Hindostan and other eastern countries, the same author observes, "that it is very remarkable that one of the principal ceremonies incumbent upon the priests of these stone deities, according to Tavernier, is to anoint them daily with odoriferous oils. From this conduct of Jacob, and this Hebrew appellative (*Bethel*) the learned Bochart, with great ingenuity and reason, insists that the name and veneration of the sacred stones called *Bactyli*, so celebrated in all pagan antiquity, were derived." Thus, the setting up of a stone by this holy person, in grateful memory of the celestial vision, probably became the occasion of idolatry in succeeding ages, to these shapeless masses of unhewn stone, of which so many astonishing remains are scattered up and down the Asiatic and European world.* Many such are to be found on Dartmoor, and were probably designed for similar purposes. A striking specimen appears amidst the aboriginal relics near Merivale Bridge, on the Walkham, in the western quarter. Tapering in form, it presents, in a shaft of unwrought granite, twelve feet high, and eight in girth, at the base, a rude type of the architectural obelisk, and may be regarded as a characteristic illustration of the designation by which monuments of this kind are described by antiquaries—*Maen Hir*, the *Long Upright Stone*. When thus found in connection with other relics, a variety of purposes to which these insulated columns might have been applied, suggest themselves to the mind;† but that the primary object of their erection, was that of commemorating remarkable or important events, there seems little reason to doubt.

Imperfect but undoubted relics of these dwellings of the antient

* BURDER *Orient. Cust.* vol. i. 40.—*Lond.* 1827. But Mr. Harcourt, in noticing the vast numbers of such relics, in various parts of the world, attributes them to a much earlier origin; and regards them as so many undoubted memorials of the Deluge, in a variety of forms; symbolizing "The highest peak of the Diluvian Mountain," i.e. one of the columnar or pyramidal crags of Mount Ararat.

† Sir R. C. Hoare states, that no example occurs in Wiltshire,—"*but they are to be found in other parts of our island, in Ireland, and in Wales.*"—*Ant. Wills.* ii. 114. This learned antiquary cites "the Devil's Arrows" in Yorkshire, and the rock pillars at Trelech, in Monmouthshire, as examples; but seems to have been ignorant of the existence of our fine Devonshire specimens, which, standing alone, are more decidedly monumental than the former, which are found in connexion with others.

inhabitants, are found in profusion in almost every part of Dartmoor.

HUTS, OR
DWELLINGS.

It is worthy of remark how little attention has been paid by topographers and historians to these curious and unquestionable vestiges of the primitive population of our island. The observations of Sir R. C.

Hoare, in reference to Wiltshire, will, for the most part, apply with equal if not with greater pertinence, to Devonshire. "It is somewhat singular," remarks that learned antiquary, "that the discovery of our British settlements should not have been made previous to my own researches, and that they had escaped the notice of Aubrey, Stukely, and every subsequent writer on our national antiquities. Their eyes seem to have been dazzled with the splendour of an Abury and a Stonehenge, and to have noticed only the tumuli of the Britons, without turning a thought towards the residences of the living, to whose memory these sepulchral mounds were raised at their decease." So the Drewsteignton Cromlech and Logan-stone are the theme of every topographer; but the hundreds of ruined dwellings, scattered over the highlands of Devonshire, appear, for the most part, to have escaped observation, or to have been deemed unworthy of attention.

I have however observed, that these ruined abodes of our rude forefathers are more numerous along the declivities, on the skirts of the moor, and on the hill-sides in the interior, which slope down to the water-courses, than in other parts. The principal groups of houses, (villages or towns,) are invariably found in such situations. For miles in the heathy table land round Cranmere Pool, I have only been able to find a single insulated dwelling, while in the slopes of almost all the vallies, especially those fronting to the south and west, they are of frequent occurrence. The large aboriginal village near Merivale Bridge has a western aspect, and is situated on the side of a hill, gently rising from the banks of the Walkham. The fortified town at Grimspound, with its Cyclopean circumvallation, is built on the western declivity of Hamildown, with a spring rising on the eastern side of the inclosure. But in whatever situations the rude dwellings of the primitive Britons are found, whether inclosed within walls as at Grimspound, or in unwallled villages as at Merivale,—they are all observed to be similar in design,—and all, with only one ascertained exception, in the same completely ruined condition, with nothing but the foundations and

the door jambs remaining. These HUT CIRCLES, as they have been called, to distinguish them from the sacred circles (from which they differ essentially) are all circular in plan; and consist of granite blocks, set firmly in the ground on their edge, and placed closely together, (instead of at wide intervals as the *sacred* circle,) so as to form a secure foundation for the superstructure, whether it were constructed of stone and turf, wattle,* or other material. To adopt the language of Whittaker, in describing the houses of the Lancashire Britons, "they were, as we have every reason to suppose what the general houses of the Gauls and Britons were, great round cabins, built principally of timber on foundations of stone, and roofed with a sloping covering of reeds." It would however appear that where stone was abundant, as on Dartmoor, the cabins in some instances at least were constructed entirely of stone, as the same author remarks of the remains of British buildings in Anglesea and Wilts. In this kind of masonry the interstices were filled with turf or earth, as, according to Whittaker, was the practice in the Western Isles of Scotland, who might have found modern examples of the same kind of building in England, since this "rough-and-ready" method of erecting walls seems to have been handed down from the earliest times, and prevails among our Dartmoor peasants to this day.

The remains of the aboriginal habitations in Devon, as above-mentioned, consist for the most part of foundations only, with the door jambs, in many instances; and the superstructure in these, was most probably of wood and other perishable materials. But one example has been discovered of the description just referred to, where the hut is in a state comparatively perfect, having been constructed entirely of stone and turf, the upper part only having fallen in. It appears to have been shaped like a bee-hive, the wall being formed of large stones, which seem to have been chosen with care, for the purpose of forming the widely arched roof; and which evidently had their interstices filled up with smaller stone and, probably, turf.

The Danmonian huts have their counterparts in the shealings of the Orknays, some of which are of this form, and are constructed of stone and turf; others have a base of stone consisting of two circles one within the other, with a roofing of fir poles, converging to a

* *Junctæ cortice virgæ.*—OVID.

point and thatched with branches or heather. Both kinds appear to have existed on Dartmoor; and the vestiges which still remain, sufficiently accord with the descriptions given by Diodorus Siculus, and Strabo, of the habitations of the Britons of their times, to induce the belief that they had received the accounts from some of those enterprising mariners, who had seen the buildings, in their trading voyages to the isles of tin.

The ruined basement, which constitutes the hut circle, consists, in the majority of examples, of a single course of stones, but in some instances, a double circle is observed. These stones stand generally from eighteen inches to thirty above the surface. The door jambs also of stone, are, in most cases, higher placed, nearly at right angles to the outline of the circle: in a very considerable proportion of examples, the door faces the south. These dwellings measure from twelve to thirty feet, diameter; the most usual size being about twenty-six feet, though some occur of much larger dimensions, and these were probably appropriated to the chieftain of the clan. Cæsar describes the houses of the Britons as similar to the dwellings of the Gauls, lighted only from the door, and on this Fosbroke remarks, that his account was perfectly correct, from the representation of the British cabins on the Antonine column, where they appear as circular buildings, with sloping or domical roofs, having an opening at the top for the emission of smoke.* The Britons of the interior were a pastoral people, as we may safely conclude from Cæsar's account of their mode of subsistence; "*Interiores plerique frumenta non serunt; sed lacte et carne vivunt.*" The nomadic life and habits evidently implied by this brief but comprehensive description, their inattention to tillage, and their subsisting upon milk and flesh, would be quite in keeping with the nature of† the wild uncultivated tracts of Dartmoor. Hence we may infer that the Britons had out-buildings and inclosures for the folding of their cattle, and that therefore some of the ruined foundations which have been described above, are the remains of build-

* *Ency. Antiq.*, p. 76.

† Like the Nomades of the antient times, and the more modern Tartars, our Britons resided upon the hills, sheltered by huts from the inclemency of the weather, and subsisting on the produce of their cattle, and the venison, which the woods supplied in abundance. The numerous remains we have discovered in each district of our country, sufficiently prove the original residence of the Britons to have existed upon the hills; but in later times, when civilized by the Romans, they probably began to clear the vallies from woods, and to seek more sheltered situations in the vales, and in the vicinity of rivers.—*Ant. Wills.*, vol. ii., p. 106.

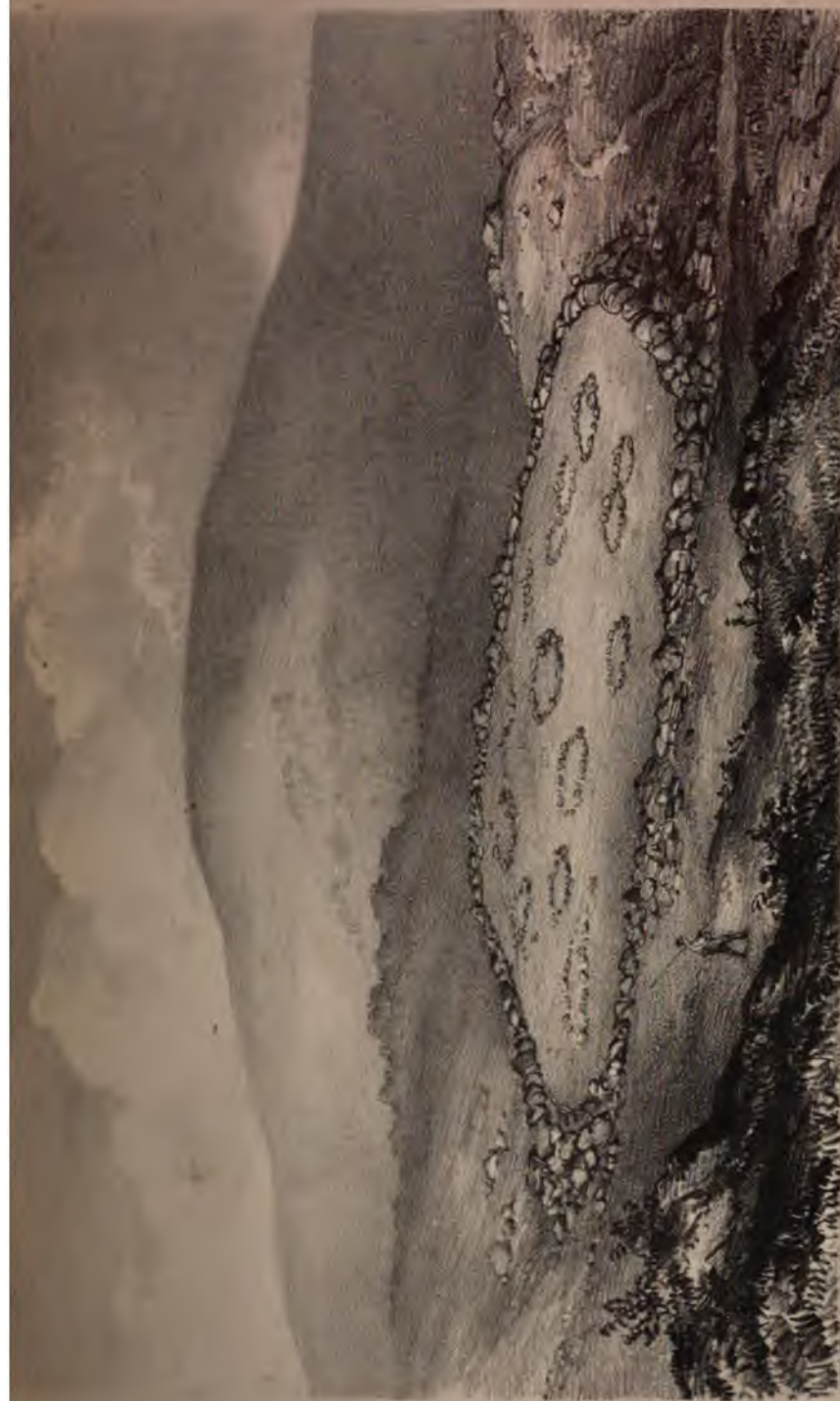
ings raised for purposes of this kind, and as in our own times, in most cases, adjoining the habitations of the owners of the flocks and herds.

POUNDS, OR
CIRCUMVALLA-
TIONS.

For the protection of cattle, those curious inclosures, which occur in so many parts of the moor, are traditionally supposed to have been constructed, and are therefore popularly called POUNDS by the moormen. That they were intended to protect the inhabitants as well as their cattle, on any sudden emergency, there can be no doubt, although it would appear that the most perfect of them, Grimpound, was designed as the fortification of a permanent settlement, rather than as a temporary strong-hold, to which, as we learn from Cæsar, the Belgic Celts were accustomed to retreat, with their families, flocks, and herds, on the approach of danger. These inclosures are either low walls of stones piled rudely together, in a ridge-like form, or belts of huge granite blocks, placed erect in the ground. Their general form is circular, but some examples are elliptical. Remains of habitations are in most cases found in these primitive entrenchments, so that we may justly conclude that they were originally constructed for purposes of security and defence.

A fine specimen occurs, on the commons, west of Castor Rock, adjoining a moorland road which forms the boundary between the parishes of Chagford and Gidleigh, where the Round Pound, as it is called by the moormen, exhibits the foundations of a house within the inclosure, which itself forms a kind of courtyard round the dwelling, with the jambs at the entrance still erect.

Grimpsound is by far the finest and most extraordinary of all the relics of this class. Viewed from Hooknor Tor, which commands its entire area, it presents to the spectator an object of singular curiosity and interest. Its situation is on the N.W. slope of Hamildon, on the borders of the parishes of Manaton, North Bovey, and Widdécombe. The wall or mound is formed of moorstone blocks, rudely piled up, but so large as not to be easily displaced. The base of this rampart covers in some parts a surface of twenty feet in breadth, but the average height of a section taken at any point would not exceed six feet. With the exceptions of an opening on the east and west sides, the inclosure is perfect, surrounding an area of about four acres. The original entrance is supposed to have been on the south. The vestiges of antient habitations within this primitive entrenchment are



C. F. Williams del.

GRIMSPOND FORTIFIED ABORIGINAL VILLAGE

F. Gaer del.

numerous, (as already observed), and occupy the whole area, leaving only one vacant spot at the upper end, which might have been a kind of forum, or place of public concourse, for the inhabitants. A spring, rising on the eastern side, and skilfully conducted for some distance below the wall, supplied the inhabitants with pure water; and the whole presents a more complete specimen of an antient British settlement, provided with means of protracted defence, than will perhaps be found in any other part of the island. A path-road from Manaton to Headland Warren runs through the inclosure.

Of the other kind of Cyclopean inclosure above referred to, I know but one existing specimen, observed by us, first, in the year 1828, in a small pasture field about a furlong S.E. of Manaton Church, and conjectured by Col. Hamilton Smith to have given the original name to the parish, *Maen-y-dun*, the Fort, or Inclosure, of Erect Stones. This appears to be a description of primitive circumvallation, unknown to, or at least altogether unnoticed by, antiquaries. It is elliptical in form, and in an exceedingly perfect condition. The masses of which the fence is constructed are from four to six feet high, placed in a double row, and set closely together. I noticed, however, one stone so large that it fills the whole breadth, being six feet wide by five thick. The diameters of the elliptical area are one hundred and thirty-eight feet by one hundred. There are no vestiges of any Druidical relic within the inclosure or near it, and the most cursory observer will instantly remark that its character is totally different from the *Pounds*, and still more so from the columnar circle. As it is situated on comparatively low ground, where pasturage must have been abundant, it was probably erected for the protection of cattle.

TRACKWAYS,
OR
ROADS. Wherever there are communities having settled habitations, however simple and uncultivated the people, we justly expect to find some traces of the means of communication between village and village, or one settlement and another. Nor is Dart-

moor without numerous examples of this kind, affording proofs, in addition to those already advanced, of its having been inhabited in remote times. TRACKWAYS, under which designation those roads, or causeways, which cross the moor in various directions are generally known, were no doubt often made to serve the purpose of boundary

lines. Sir R. C. Hoare, describing those which he had examined in Wiltshire, observes—"The lines of communication between one village and another were by means of trackways, not paved or formed, but following the natural ridge of the country, by which they have gained the additional name of *ridgeways*, which some of them still retain." But this description of our primitive British roads, must be received with considerable modification, as applying to a country where stone was so abundant, as in the Devonshire highlands. There we find them constructed of stones (too large to be easily displaced) irregularly laid down on the surface, and thus forming a rude but efficient causeway, the general breadth of which is about five or six feet, but which, in one example (near Three Barrow Tor), we found to be fifteen feet, though much obscured by the encroaching vegetation.

The most extensive trackway which has come under our notice is one which is supposed to traverse the forest in a line, bearing east and west, from Hamilton to Great Mistor. Considerable portions of the line can be traced in a direction corresponding to these points, but a large extent of it rests rather upon the testimony of tradition than upon the evidence of existing remains. The oral topographers of the uplands, recognise this trackway as the **equator of the moorland region*, all above it being considered the *north*, and all below it the *south* country, a circumstance which though it affords good evidence of the antiquity of this relic, might be supposed to give it the character of a boundary rather than of a road; but which will have less weight in this scale when we consider how frequently antient roads are found to form boundaries between parishes, manors, and other divisions of country.† This trackway may be observed in high preservation coming down the northern slope of Chittaford Down towards the banks of the East Dart. Here it can be traced for a considerable distance, and is visible running due west, through Hollocombe, and up the opposite hill to Little White Tor. Down the common, towards the Dart, it bends towards the north-east, but

* On the authority of the Rev. J. M. Mason, vicar of Widdecombe, whose intimate acquaintance with the topography and traditions of the moor, is as well known to the moorland tourist, as the obliging readiness with which he communicates the information, which he so extensively possesses, on these subjects.

† A case which seems completely in point occurs, near the antient town of Plympton, where an old road that keeps the crest of the hill in a remarkably straight direction, is still called Ridge Lane, and which for a considerable distance divides the parish of Brixton from the two Plymptons,—St. Mary and Maurice.

in the level near Post Bridge, it takes a direction southward. With some difficulty it may be detected through the boggy meadows below Hartland farm. The peat-cutters are reported to come upon it, below the surface in some places ; nor is it at all unlikely that the encroachments of the vegetation, which in some instances are only partial, should in others have extended over the whole breadth of the trackway, and thus have obliterated all traces of it in the lower grounds.

The trackways have no characteristic which would lead us to refer their construction to the Roman period of British history, nor have we documentary evidence that any of their roads ran through Danmonium, in a direction corresponding to that of the Dartmoor trackways. Neither are there in them any marks of modern construction, as fences, or bounds ; the remains of the oldest cattle fences on the moor, being so strikingly different, as to be evident to every observer of common penetration.

TRACKLINES,
OR
BOUNDARY
BANKS.

Greatly similar in construction are the TRACKLINES, or Boundary Banks, which are invariably observed in connexion with aboriginal dwellings and sepulchral remains. They are numerous in every part of the moorlands, and like the same kind of primitive fosse which Sir R. C. Hoare describes as of frequent occurrence "through-out the downy district" of Wiltshire, "were originally thrown up for the double purpose of defence and communication," serving for bounds and pathways, and connecting and enclosing dwellings. The most striking specimen is perhaps that which is presented on the south-eastern slope of Torrhill, near the road from Ashburton to Moreton, below Rippon Tor. Here are evident marks of regularity of design, and the tracklines intersect each other in such numbers that nearly the whole hill-side is partitioned into squares, conveying in a remarkable manner a lively idea of an aboriginal rural settlement, as there are remains of many antient habitations, within their respective inclosures. It would be too much to pronounce that we have evidence of a different fashion prevailing in these constructions, in different parts of the moor, but on the south side of Heytor, in the neighbourhood of Torrhill, they are observed in rectangular outlines, while on Cosdon, they are in curves ; on Archeton hill, and below Wistman's Wood, in various irregular forms ; and near Littleford Tor, one occurs

connecting two ruined dwellings in a line, which forms the segment of a circle.

In a region such as Dartmoor, intersected by rivers and brooks in all directions, and those streams so peculiarly liable to be swollen by summer torrents, and by the thawing of the accumulated snows of winter, the progress of the trackways would be continually interrupted by these natural and formidable obstacles. In some instances, they may be found pointing to a ford, as would appear to be the case with the grand central road, below Chittaford Down; but as the East Dart would frequently become impassable at that ford, the necessities of the case would task the ingenuity of the earliest inhabitants* in contriving the erection of a bridge. Happily the materials, which lay at hand, when such a necessity arose to a primitive people, were of a more durable kind than the felled tree, which in more wooded districts forms a ready and not inconvenient bridge. Vast slabs of granite afforded the means of constructing solid piers, by being merely laid one upon another, yet stable enough, without cement or other adventitious appliances, to breast the impetuous rush of the moorland torrents. The necessity of arching was obviated, by massive imposts of a tabular form, laid horizontally from pier to pier.†

Adjoining Post Bridge, (a modern county bridge over the East Dart, traversed by the Tavistock and Moreton road) stands one of these venerable and characteristic relics of aboriginal times, presenting a truly interesting specimen of primitive Cyclopean architecture. The piers are three, and these with the abutments form four sufficient openings for the waterway. Its construction, though rude, is of the most durable kind. No structure of ordinary stability could have withstood the fury of the vehement Dart in his most turbulent moods, for twenty or thirty centuries. The piers consist of six layers of granite slabs, above the foundation. The superincumbent stones are singularly adapted for the purpose to which they are applied. The centre

* In this immediate neighbourhood are many interesting remains of habitations on the newly-inclosed estate of Mr. J. N. Bennett, of Plymouth, who, in carrying out his projected improvements, is laudably anxious for the due preservation of the relics of antiquity.

† Some of these are formed of a single stone, and would then probably come under the vernacular denomination, *Clam*; a term also frequently applied to a bridge formed of a plank, or single tree, although I have noticed a distinction sometimes made, the wooden bridge being called a Clapper, and the stone, a Clam.



C. F. WILLIAMS DELT

CYCLOPEAN BRIDGE, OVER THE DART, DARTMOOR

P. GAUCH, UTH.

opening is narrower than the side openings; the imposts here, were two, one of these by accident or design has been displaced, and lies in the bed of the river. These stones in general are about fifteen feet long, and six wide, and thus a roadway was made over which even the scythed chariot of the Danmonian warrior might pass the river in safety.

There are other specimens of the Cyclopean* bridge in various parts of the moor, but this is by far the largest and most interesting, and with the exception of the displacement of the stone above mentioned, is in good preservation. Mrs. Bray, in enumerating other local antiquities, bears the testimony of an observant traveller to the uncommon character of these curious structures. "It is not unlikely that they are unique in their construction; at least I can say that though I have visited in England, South Wales, and Brittany, many places celebrated for Celtic remains, I have never yet seen anything like our ancient Dartmoor bridges." †

PORTS AND
ENTRENCH-
MENTS.

The camps, or earthworks, which are found on the skirts of the moorlands, may be regarded as forming a connecting link between the aboriginal period of British history, and the succeeding æras of Roman and Saxon dominion, since the same positions, from their national capabilities, would be occupied, in many cases, by the different invaders or defenders of the country in succession. Prestonbury on the Teign, near Drewsteignton, and Hembury on the Dart, near Buckfastleigh, are both hill forts, so strikingly characteristic of the Celtic method of castrametation, that we can scarcely err in attributing their original construction to the Britons. We learn from Cæsar that our warlike progenitors, when repulsed by the Romans, betook themselves into strongholds, chosen it would appear with great discernment, for their natural advantages, and strengthened by art with so much skill, as to deserve the commendation of a commander so well versed in military affairs, as the conqueror of Gaul. He describes such a stronghold as excellently fortified by nature and art. A favourite position, according to the same authority, was a

* The Rev. E. A. Bray, the Vicar of Tavistock, who visited it in 1831, says—"it was probably erected by the aboriginal Britons, and might almost be taken for the work of the Cyclops themselves."—Mrs. BRAY's *Tamar and Tavy*, vol. i., p. 300.

† Nor have I observed any examples in North Wales, or in Westmorland or Cumberland.—S. R.

the for the
cyclopean

peninsulated hill, moated naturally, to a greater or less extent, by a river, and fortified, on the most accessible side, by a ditch and rampart drawn across the neck of land. Such was the fortress of the Aduatici, in Gaul, described by Cæsar. "The Gaer-Dykes, or Coxall Hill, where Caractacus was finally defeated, is a similar position," says Fosbroke, "on the point of a hill accessible only one way." The same author observes, that "the British camps in general occupy the summits of hills of a ridge-like form, and commanding passes." This is precisely the description of Prestonbury, which is a Celtic hill fortress, evidently of high antiquity, and of a most interesting description, whether we consider its construction, or the situation it occupies. This characteristic specimen of the primitive fortifications of the Danmonian highlands, occupies the extreme point of a ridge-like hill which forms the northern bank of the Teign, to the extent of about a mile between Fingle and Clifford bridges. Immediately above the former, it rises from the brink of the river in the form of a bold headland, fully commanding the low ground beneath, from its precipitous character. The hollow between Prestonbury, and the acclivity which rises towards Drewsteignton Church, has evidently the appearance of a pass from the champaign country, to the uplands by the ford, which, doubtless, existed before the erection of the oldest bridge, at or near, where the picturesque arches of Fingle now span the rapid current of the Teign. Thus situated, Prestonbury was admirably calculated for a watch-tower, as well as a fortress; and the strength of its entrenchments seems to indicate the importance attached to the position. The extremity of this inland promontory is the highest ground of the ridge, which on the south side is scarped down by nature in a precipitous rocky glacis to the river's brink. Nature having therefore so amply provided for the security of the fortress on this side, less was demanded from the resources of art, so that a rampart without any ditch, rising immediately from the precipice, was evidently thought sufficient. But on the north, where there is a much gentler declivity landwards, the rampart is of a far more formidable appearance, forming an entrenchment, in some parts eight yards in height. The circumference of the circumvallation, taken along the crest of the vallum, is five hundred and twenty yards; and this part of the entrenchment, which may be considered as a kind of keep, was defended by two parallel outworks, constructed

on the ridge of the hill. The ground declines slightly from the eastern side of the keep; and at sixty yards distance, the first of the outworks occurs—a rampart and a ditch crossing the ridge saddle-wise, and dying away in the precipice on the south. The next entrenchment is thrown up at the distance of one hundred and twenty yards; here the vallum is loftier and the fosse deeper. Beyond this line of entrenchment, the ground rises, till at the distance of about a furlong east of the keep, or principal work, it is lofty enough to command the fortified portion of the hill already described. At this point, therefore, we find fortifications erected to guard the approaches, where the ridge gradually slopes eastward, and where easy access might be otherwise obtained by the enemy. But when the whole of the neck of land was thus fortified, ample means were afforded for preventing surprise and for maintaining a protracted defence, if necessary.

Here then on the northern verge of our moorland region, may be observed a curious and interesting specimen of those strongholds, to which the Celtic tribes were accustomed to retreat in cases of danger; for although such a post as this, would scarcely fail to be garrisoned by the troops of the successive occupants or invaders of the country, and might undergo some alterations, in the lapse of centuries, yet enough of the primary features remain, to enable the antiquary to trace the original fortifying of this remarkable hill, to our warlike Danmonian progenitors.

The monuments of antiquity, which have been thus far enumerated, indicate a rude and simple state of society, and may be reasonably traced to the requirements of a primitive people, suggested probably, in some degree, by the nature and abundance of the materials supplied by the surrounding district. The memorial of some compact between two reconciled tribes would probably be needed, and the neighbouring tor would alike furnish materials for another Jegar Sahadutha (GEN. xxxi. 47)—the heap of witness,—as well as for a memorial pillar, or for a conspicuous and durable landmark to define the limits of adjoining pasture grounds. Their villages would require defence from hostile attack, or protection from the beasts of prey, with which the rocky slopes and swampy thickets of the Forest abounded, and the unwrought bowlders of moorstone would readily form the Cyclopean fortification of Grimpound. Their religion

demanded open shrines,—and a circle of rude granite obelisks, guarded the primitive sanctuary from all profane intrusion. Or if we look beyond natural circumstances, and should conclude that there would appear to be more of premeditation and design, in the choice of their materials, and in the forms employed; it might thence be inferred, that the notions which led to their erection were not of indigenous growth, but were brought from other lands, by the original settlers. Since, also, points of resemblance have been observed between these monuments and such as are found in eastern countries, or are known to have existed there in the earliest ages, for purposes which are recorded, although they do not establish the hypothesis of the colonization of Britain from the east, they certainly favour an opinion which is also countenanced by tradition, and which no less than eight centuries since had assumed a shape sufficiently definite to be preserved in one of the most valuable documents of mediæval times, the Saxon Chronicle,—which states that “the first inhabitants of this country were Britons, who having come from Armenia established themselves in the southern parts of Britain.” The legendary fable of the voyage of Brutus, from the Mediterranean to the shores of Devonshire, his landing at Totness, and overthrow of his gigantic antagonists at Plymouth, however unworthy of credit as to details, deserve consideration, as indicating some substantial truths, just as shadows, however distorted and exaggerated, are proofs of an actual substance. And if there is any just foundation for the ingenious theories of Mr. Harcourt, that the Albion of Aristotle* (Britain) was one of the isles of the Blessed, of antiquity; the *μακαρων νῆσος* of Lycophron (according to Tzetzes), that the celebrated Atlantis may be more reasonably sought for in the British isles than elsewhere,—that it was here that the slumbers of the Titanian Kronos were guarded by the hundred-handed Briareus, as reported by Plato, that the island which was the abode of Neptune, was Britain, † and

* *De Mundo*, c. 3.

† I question whether the composer of the once popular sea-song, ever imagined that he could boast such high authority as the celebrated Athenian philosopher for regarding our island as the contemplated residence of the god of ocean.

Daddy Neptune one day unto Freedom did say—

If e'er I should live upon dry land,

The spot I should hit on would be little Britain,

'Tis such a snug, tight little island.

Οὕτω δὲ καὶ τὴν νῆσον Ποσειδῶν τὴν Ἀτλαντίδα λαχών.—PLATO CRITIAS.

that the Hesperides to which Hercules travelled to fetch the golden apples for Juno, were also the same islands, since Apollodorus expressly says that the Hesperian apples were not in Libya but at the Atlas, among the Hyperboreans,*—then shall we conclude, that there is more cause for believing that there existed a much earlier communication by sea, between our islands and the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, than has been generally supposed, and that this may have partly arisen from the circumstance of the original colonization of the British isles having taken place by a voyage through the Straits of Gibraltar.

The expedition of Brutus is alleged to have been undertaken about the year 1100, B.C., and in the first century after the Trojan war, from which period, Britain is supposed to have taken its name from that successful invader. These legendary tales may preserve the memorial of a real descent, by some foreign chief, about the time in question, and appear to intimate that the invaders had to encounter the opposition of a fierce and warlike people. Hence these traditionary legends evidently assume that this island must have been peopled (it may be presumed) for some ages, anterior to the reported landing of the Trojan adventurers in the estuary of the Dart, and their conflicts at the mouth of the Plym—both Dartmoor rivers, and therefore identifying these legends with the *venue* of this treatise. But it is far more probable that the truth of these fables will be found in a Tyrian expedition, rather than in a Trojan, when impartial history,† regarding the claimants with equal eye, (*Tros, Tyriusve, nullo discrimine,*) steps in to decide the rival claims, since we are assured that the enterprising traders of Phœnicia had brought tin by sea, from some western country before the time of Homer, and that it is not more probable that Brutus, a great grandson of Æneas, ever made an expedition to Totness, and gave his name to Britain, than that he founded the city of Tours, in Gaul, as gravely asserted by Geoffrey of Monmouth. Much less fanciful is the etymology which would derive the original designation of our island, with the learned Bochart, Sammes, and others, from two Phœnician words—*Barat-anac*, the

* *Doct. of Deluge* ii., 150, 151, 152.

† "I am not for wholly rejecting," says Bishop Nicolson, "all that is contained in that history, believing there is somewhat of truth in it, under a mighty heap of monkish fables."—*English Histor. Library*. London, 1714, p. 37.

land of tin, translated in after-times, by the Greeks, *Cassiterides*; since it is so far supported by historical evidence; as we learn from classical writers, that the Phœnicians* were the earliest traders upon record, to the tin counties beyond the pillars of Hercules, in the Hyperborean ocean.

The period being determined, about which the Phœnicians first visited Britain, we shall obtain some historical data for calculating the æra of the aboriginal relics of Dartmoor. We learn from antiquity with what jealous vigilance they guarded the lucrative monopoly of the tin trade. The account of the Phœnician shipmaster, who ran his vessel aground, to prevent his course from being traced by a Roman galley, and his reimbursement by his grateful countrymen, is well known. It is also recorded that the Greeks of Marseilles, who had been long anxious to obtain a share in this traffic, were at last successful in their attempts to discover the *Cassiterides*, which became known to them B.C. 330. But Herodotus, more than a century before, whilst he confesses his ignorance of the precise situation of the *Cassiterides*, mentions tin, without any question, as the product of the extreme regions of Western Europe, with which he was unacquainted.† Tin was one of the commodities, in the fairs of Tyre, enumerated by the prophet Ezekiel, (B.C. 595,) and was known to the Jews in the time when Isaiah prophesied, (B.C. 760.) If therefore tin was generally recognised by the common consent of antiquity, as a product of the *Cassiterides*, and an import of the Phœnicians, we are carried back to the age of Homer, who mentions the metal as forming an ingredient in the manufacture of armour in those early ages of the world. But if, with the apprehension of an anachronism, in this particular, we hesitate to go back to the siege of Troy, (1190 B.C. to 1200,) there can be no difficulty in admitting that a voyage from the Levant to Britain might have been accomplished at so remote a period as about one thousand years before the Christian æra. The learned Heeren fixes the flourishing period of Tyre and the Phœnician states, from 1000 to 332 B.C., nor does it seem

* Bishop Nicolson contemptuously dismisses the speculations of Sammes about "the Phœnicians his only darlings;" but subsequent researches of the learned have shown that opinions which have been entertained from the times of Nennius, and were advocated by Bochart, are not to be summarily disposed of, without investigation, as the baseless reveries of an enthusiastic, but ill-informed antiquary.

† "Neither am I acquainted with the *Cassiterides* Islands from whence tin comes to us."—HEROD. *Thalia* iii., 115. Gronov.

without the bounds of probability to suppose, that their enterprising navigators possessed, even in those early times, the means, as they doubtless had the desire, of extending their policy, of foreign colonization, even to the remote isles of Britain. A prominent feature in that policy was the forming of their mercantile settlements on islands and peninsulas. We know that they pushed their discoveries, by coasting Africa, in a southern course, after passing the Pillars of Hercules. There does not therefore appear any sufficient reason for questioning the probability of their having (as early as the reign of David or Solomon) voyaged northwards along the coasts of Spain and Gaul, until they reached the islands of Baratanac, the country of tin.

The aboriginal period of our history, characterized by the monuments above enumerated, may therefore be regarded as commencing before the arrival of the Phœnician mariners, and as extending over the time when the tin trade was carried on by them, and subsequently by the Phocæan-Greeks, from Marseilles, previously to the invasion of the Romans. Among those relics, examples of two kinds of fortresses have been mentioned. Such as that of Prestonbury, evidencing more artificial preparation than the simple circumvallation of Grimspound, may with great propriety be assigned to a period when the rudiments of barbarian castrametation had been improved by intercourse with the classical nations. But proofs of the presence of these enterprising navigators may be traced with far more certainty in the vestiges of works,—more congenial to the commercial spirit of the merchant-princes of Tyre and Sidon, and more germane to the views with which they dispatched their argosies, to brave the terrors of the Hyperborean Ocean,—in the remains of primitive mining operations, which are still to be found in various parts of the moor.

Polwhele remarks that the parishes of Manaton, Kingsteignton, and Teigngrace, present examples of these antient works.* The two latter lie beyond our moorland district, towards the estuary of the Teign, but the former is one of the border parishes of the Forest, and contains many of the remains in question; which, although it is impossible to assign them any date, with even an approach to histo-

* To say nothing of Cornwall, there are numberless stream works on Dartmoor and its vicinities, which have been forsaken for ages. In the parishes of Manaton, Kingsteignton, and Teigngrace, are many old tin-works of this kind, which the inhabitants attribute to that period when wolves and winged serpents were no strangers to the hills or the vallies.—*Histor. Views of Devon*, p. 110.

rical certainty, have been generally conjectured to be the relics of British operations, under the direction of the Phœnician traders. Speaking of these primitive stream works, Polwhele goes on to observe that "the Bovey Heathfield hath been worked in the same manner. And indeed all the vallies from the Heathfield to Dartmoor bear the traces of shoding and streaming, which I doubt not was British or Phœnician." Not only in the parish of Manaton, but in those of Chagford, Walkhampton, Sheepstor, and Lydford, (the Forest,) have I noticed many similar remains, all in situations favourable for the peculiar operations of streaming. And without controverting the opinions of our zealous antiquary, that some of these may present veritable examples of forsaken mines of the British and Phœnician period, we cannot suppose that of all the vestiges of these antient works, none are to be assigned to a later age. The nature of the case would rather suggest the inference, that as mining operations have been carried on in our county from the times of the Phœnicians downwards, so the existing relics, if discrimination were possible, would be attributable to different adventurers, and to successive ages and generations. Leaving those speculations therefore in the obscurity and uncertainty wherein time has enveloped them, and which can never be dispelled, let us proceed to collect the few scattered rays of light which antient history casts upon the mining operations and commercial transactions of the period in question, as far as they come within the plan of the present treatise.

Britain had long been regarded as isolated from the rest of mankind, no less by its remote and insular position, but by the fierce and intractable character of its inhabitants—*toto divisos orbe Britannos*. The jealous policy of the Phœnicians would doubtless be directed to foster this opinion as much as possible, to which they themselves had probably first given currency, from the desire of preserving in all its integrity their much valued monopoly of the British commerce. Hence as we have seen in the case of Herodotus, little was known by antient authors on the subject of the Cassiterides, beyond the fact of their existence, amidst the fabled horrors of the Hyperborean sea. But after the Greeks of Marsilles had succeeded in obtaining a knowledge of the country, and a share in its valuable trade, the philosophers and historians of antiquity had the means of acquiring some information, on a subject of no little interest, which at no distant

period, were further enlarged by the invasion of Cæsar. The late General Simcoe, as recorded by Polwhele, accurately applies Cæsar's notice of the metallic productions of Britain to Devonshire and Dartmoor. "When Cæsar, speaking of Britain, says *Nascitur ibi plumbum album in Mediterraneis regionibus, in maritimis ferrum, sed ejus exigua est copia*, he elucidates our western history. To Cæsar it appeared that tin came from the inner country."* Under the general appellation of the *midland* or rather, perhaps, *inland* parts, Dartmoor must have been included, as well as the metalliferous districts of Cornwall, since we have abundant testimony, as already shown, that the south-western angle of Britain was the principal scene of antient mining operations. But Cæsar, relying on hearsay evidence, collected probably in Kent, had been evidently misled as to the exact situation of the principal tin mines; some of which, even in our moorland district, were too near to the coast, to be correctly described as existing in the interior. With regard to iron, his observations are borne out by the presence of that valuable metal at Shaugh Bridge, on the southern verge of the moor, within six miles of the sea.

The Greek historian, Diodorus Siculus, who flourished about 40 B.C., enters more into detail, and has recorded some particulars of antient mining operations and the tin trade carried on, in the southern parts of Britain, of the most interesting character. He incidentally notices that the soil of the tin country was rocky, but had soft veins of earth running through it, whence the metal was extracted. He also describes the principal tin mart, in a celebrated passage which has exercised the ingenuity, and divided the opinions, of successive commentators and antiquaries. Describing the smelting of tin, by the Britons, he says, "When they have cast it into ingots they carry it into an adjacent island, which is called Iktis. For when it is low water, the intervening space is left dry, and they carry into that island great quantities of tin, in waggons." Henry, the historian, as well as Whittaker, misled probably by the name, hastily

* "The original road by which this tin was conveyed, should be an object of your investigation; and probably you will find it carried over fords and forming towns in its progress between Dartmoor, and where Sir R. Worsley now traces it to have entered the Isle of Wight. On these fords, too, you will probably find a Roman settlement, and not impossibly, account for Crockern Tor, Chagford, &c., having been formerly places of eminence."—Gen. SIMCOE to Rev. R. POLWHELE. *Histor. Views of Devon*, p. 110.

conclude Iktis to be the Isle of Wight, without considering the insuperable difficulties which this hypothesis presents.* And since, among other speculations as to the real position of this island, Polwhele has assigned it a site which would constitute it the emporium of the aboriginal Dartmoor stannaries, his exposition of the curious and interesting passage of Diodorus, as far as it bears upon our local antiquities, deserves consideration.

After disposing of the arguments of Whittaker,† Borlase, and Pryce, in favour of the Isle of Wight, Scilly, and Falmouth, Polwhele enters into an elaborate and ingenious disquisition to prove that the much-controverted situation of Iktis, is to be found in Plymouth Sound. Without referring to extraneous points, it will suffice to advert to those bearing upon our subject. The same objections which militate against the adoption of the Isle of Wight as the stannary emporium of the south-west, lie in a great degree against Scilly, or even the Black Rock islet, at Falmouth, with relation to Devonshire; whereas the geographical position of Plymouth Sound, at the mouth of two navigable rivers, running down from the heart of the tin districts of Devon, and those of East Cornwall, would offer facilities, common to both counties, which no other place presents. We can also comprehend the sending of tin from the western districts, to an emporium higher up the Channel, which had already become (as is highly probable) an exporting place for its own neighbourhood; but we can hardly imagine it probable, that tin from Dartmoor and Hingston Down, would be sent so far west as Falmouth, and still less,

* If the antient Vectis were the island meant by Diodorus, the improbable postulate is indispensable, that the massive metal must have been brought to the shores of Hampshire, opposite to the Isle of Wight, from the south of Devon and the extremities of Cornwall, (Belerium,) either by land or by sea. If by land, the vehicles as well as the roads of our aboriginal ancestors, must have been in a state of advancement for which few would be prepared to give them credit. If by sea, the argument requires that these antient traders should have shipped their tin on the coasts of Danmonium, and then steered up the channel to some port of the Belgic Britons, opposite to the Isle of Wight, on the coast of Hampshire, where they landed their cargo, as it would seem for the mere pleasure of having it transported across the strait, in waggons, (when the channel became dry, if ever it did, at the ebbing of the tide,) instead of adopting the more obvious and direct method of landing the tin, immediately on the island, even if they did not make directly for the coast of Gaul, from their original port, which would more probably have been the course adopted.

† Borlase confesses himself at a loss to decide the situation of Iktis, but supposes it to have been the largest of the Scilly Isles, and identical with the Mictis of Pliny. Pryce discovers it in the Black Rock, in Falmouth Harbour; Polwhele claims the honour for St. Nicolas' Island, in Plymouth Sound; and Hawkins, in his "Tin Trade of Cornwall," pronounces that it is St. Michael's Mount, in which opinion he is followed by Dr. Barham, De la Beche, and others.

as Scilly, to be shipped for Brittany, in its way to Marseilles. The position of Plymouth, with reference to the parts where the metal was raised, as well as to the country for which it was to be shipped, is thus far favourable to the claims of St. Nicolas. But there is one objection to this theory which has been overlooked by its advocate. Diodorus intimates that the metalliferous district, which he describes, is in the neighbourhood of the promontory Belerium. If by this, we are to understand the Land's End, as is generally supposed, we should be scarcely justified in allowing the expression, *κατα το ακρωτηριον το καλούμενον Βελέριον, οι κατοίκουντες*, so wide a scope, as to embrace Plymouth Sound; unless we should conclude that this is another instance in which the imperfect geographical knowledge of the Greeks cannot be relied upon. It might then be supposed that the Belerium being a striking object to the navigators, and some tin mines being observed by the Greek traders in its neighbourhood, in such a general description as that of our historian, other mining districts, though at a considerable distance, might possibly be included. And whilst we should infer from natural circumstances, that the products of the stannary districts on both sides of the Tamar would be exported from the mouth of that river, we are fortunately in possession of unquestionable historical evidence, that this noble and convenient roadstead was known to the Greeks, at the period under consideration, by the appellation of *Ταμάρον ἐκβολή*—*Tamari Ostia* of the Romans, and thus far might have been the scene of the famous emporium of Diodorus.

But should we advance a step farther with Polwhele, and fix upon St. Nicolas' Island,* as the very spot, an obstacle of great local importance, which appears to have escaped his notice, immediately presents itself. He supposes that the isthmus, over which, at the ebb, the tin waggons passed, lay between the island and Mount Edgcumbe; and that in the reef of sunken rocks, known to this day, as the Bridge, may be found the remains of a neck of land once passable at low water, but since swept away by the action of the

* Risdon is of opinion that this island may have been mentioned under the name of Tamarworth, upwards of a thousand years ago. "In the Saxon's Heptarchy, this harbour (Plymouth) was called Tamerweorth, (as is to be read in the life of St. Indractus), if St. Nicolas' Island be not meant thereby; for Weorth, in Saxon, is a river island. Leland describes this islet, as "lying at the mouthes of Tamar and Plym rivers," but gives no intimation of its possessing, in his time, any of the peculiar characteristics of the Iktis of Diodorus.

waves. That the sea has encroached upon the land in many parts of our island, is a fact too well known to admit of dispute; but in Plymouth Sound, the converse appears to have taken place, from a fragment of raised beach which was laid open some years ago, under the Hoe, opposite St. Nicolas' Island, and from the well-established historical fact that, in past ages, the tide flowed up from Millbay over the marshy plain between Plymouth and Stonehouse, so that the channel between the island and the mainland was probably much deeper 2000 years since, than it is now, and the possibility of the existence of an isthmus, over which waggons could pass at low water, scarcely imaginable. But even if such a means of communication had existed, the slightest acquaintance with local circumstances, would immediately show that this islet must have been most inconveniently situated for the purposes in question. The tin waggons from Dartmoor could never reach it without first crossing the wide estuary of the Tamar; and those from Hingston Down,* and the Cornish side of the river, in general would have to approach the peninsula of Mount Edgcumbe by a circuitous and incommodious route. But although these objections appear fatal to the claims of St. Nicolas, in particular, they do not in the least apply to Plymouth Sound in general; and taking into consideration the acknowledged retrocession of the sea, from this coast, we may perhaps look with better success, for such an island as Diodorus describes, to the site of Plymouth itself. Feeling persuaded that the advantages of such a port, as must have existed at the mouths of the Plym and Tamar, could not have been overlooked, either by the Phœnicians or Massilian Greeks, I think it must be conceded that in all probability, the ore raised in the neighbourhood would be sent down to that point on the Plymouth coasts, which at that period was the most favourable for embarkation. And if the sea has receded from the inlets and creeks

* That this district was the scene of antient mining operations, may be gathered from a popular tradition current in the time of Carew, no less than from the evidence afforded by the present appearance of this conspicuous hill. "From Plymouth Haven," writes the old Cornish Chronicler, "Hengsten Downe presenteth his waste head and sides to our sight. This name it borroweth of *Hengst*, which, in the Saxon, signifieth a *horse*, and to such daintie beasts, it yieldeth fittest pasture. The country people have a byeword, that

Hengsten Downe well ywrought
Is worth London town, dear ybought,

Which grew from a store of tynne, in former times there digged up."—CAREW'S *Survey of Cornwall*.

of the harbour, to the extent that some have imagined,* an island answering to all the conditions required, might be found in Plymouth Hoe, and in the parts adjoining, separated at full tide from the rising ground, north of the present town, but connected with it at low water by the dorsal tract, which, amidst the chances and changes of twenty centuries, still exists in the direction of Old Town, sloping on one side to the Frankfort marshes, and Millbay, and on the other, to Sutton Pool. Or if it should be deemed, that we have no sufficient data for concluding that the water ever reached so high a level, as must necessarily be presumed, if the Hoe were originally an island, there can be no reasonable doubt that the corresponding hill on the opposite side of Catwater, was once insulated by the union of the waters of the Lary with Sutton Pool, and that Catdown would probably then, at low tide, be approachable by an isthmus, not unlikely lying, in the same direction, as the old lane leading from Tothill to Catdown. The same rise of tide which in old times flooded the Plymouth marshes and brought the sea to Frankfort Gate, would abundantly suffice to cover the comparatively low ground between the Lary and Sutton Pool. Thus if the reference to *Belerium* could be satisfactorily explained,† an island would be found in all other respects, answering with singular exactness to the description of Diodorus, and most conveniently situated for the Danmonian miners to bring their metal from the interior, for shipment to Gaul, for Marseilles, or, in earlier times, for the Levant direct, by the Straits of Gibraltar.

But whether the claims of Plymouth to the disputed honours of *Iktis* be allowed or not, it can scarcely be questioned that trans-

* Modern geologists assert, that in past ages the shores of the English Channel have been raised forty or fifty feet; and if, according to a late statement of the learned German professor, Dr. Forchammer, before the British Association, the disruption of England from the Continent occurred not more than 2,500 or 3,000 years ago, we could readily imagine that vast changes must have taken place, along the whole line of the coast, from the Land's End to the Nore, even if we had not direct testimony to the fact.

† If the term *Cassiterides* included all the tin country of the western peninsula, might not *Belerium* have been the Greek appellation for the Roman *Jugum Ocrinum*, (the mountainous ridge reaching from Dartmoor to the Land's End), and the name of the promontory, in which it terminates, put by synecdoche, for the whole chain? Were this hypothesis tenable, "the dwellers below the promontory called *Belerium*" of Diodorus, might be fairly interpreted as describing the inhabitants of the mining districts of the south coasts of Devon and Cornwall. Or, since the informants of Diodorus probably made the Land's End first, in their voyage, they might have termed the country eastward, the coast "below *Belerium*;" if so, the term might have included, as above, all the maritime inhabitants of the stannary districts of *Danmonium*.

actions similar to those described by the Greek historian, from the very force of circumstances, must have taken place at some part of the shores of Plymouth Harbour. The contrary supposition, that with every facility for exporting the metal, raised almost on the very coast,* the traders should have conveyed the ponderous commodity by waggons to some distant port, is too absurd to be admitted. If the Dartmoor miners then, had not the identical Iktis, at the mouth of their rivers, and in sight of their southernmost hills, they had doubtless a similar emporium on their shores, and the interesting description of the maritime Britons, may be fairly applied to the Danmonians, of the neighbourhood of *Tamari Ostia*, as well as to the other trading inhabitants of the Cassiterides. "The inhabitants of that part of Britain, below the promontory called Belerium, are exceedingly hospitable, (*φιλόξενοι*, *fond of strangers*,) and on account of their intercourse with foreign merchants, are more civilized in their habits of life."†

With reference to the existence of some kind of emporium on the coast, at a convenient distance from the mining districts of Danmonium, it may be further observed, that the place known to the Greeks by the name of Tamara, had obtained sufficient celebrity in antient times, to be mentioned by Ptolemy, among the few places which his scanty information enabled him to enumerate on the Danmonian shores. This could scarcely have arisen from any other cause, than the natural advantages of Plymouth Sound,—its contiguity to the stannary region, and the consequent growth of an emporium for the staple commodity of the country, at some convenient spot, in the parts adjacent. Had there been no direct

* The tidal waters of the Plym are known to have flowed, in former times, over great part of the Saltram marshes, towards Plympton St. Mary church, so that the mining ground, near Hemerdon, Newnham and Boringdon Park, was much nearer to the estuary than at present.

† It is not impossible that the precincts of Dartmoor, may have supplied materials for the dockyards of Greek naval architects two thousand years ago. Polwhele has noticed a circumstance which is worth observing. "That famous ship which was built at Syracuse under the direction of Archimedes, is at once a proof of the proficiency of the Greeks in the maritime arts, and of their connexion with Britain. According to Athenæus, the ship had three masts, of which the second and third, were easily procured; but it was long before a tree for the mainmast could be found. At length a proper tree was discovered, in the mountains of Britain, and brought down to the sea coast by a famous mechanic, Phileas Tauromenites. This is a curious fact. And the mountains of Britain, I conceive, were the mountains of Danmonium. In other parts of the island the Greeks had very slight connexions. It was with Danmonium they traded."—*His. View*, 145.

evidence of the existence of such a port, nature would have indicated, that as a roadstead like Plymouth Sound, and such harbours as Hamoaze and Catwater, could not have escaped the notice of the Phœnician and Greek traders, so the circumstance of their resorting there, for purposes of traffic, would naturally lead to the gradual rise of some kind of port, of greater or less consequence. But having the testimony of Ptolemy, to the existence of a town in the neighbourhood of the Tamar, it is no longer matter of conjecture or inference, but an historical fact, that such a place near the coast of Danmonium, was known to the Greeks and other classical nations, in the age of Ptolemy, and in all probability long before. Nor is it less certain, that with the sole exception of Isca, (*Exeter*,) we can fix the situation of Tamara with more accuracy, than any other of the Danmonian towns and places enumerated by Ptolemy. Its name identifies it with the banks of the Tamar, and, most probably, with the immediate neighbourhood of the estuary, since this author mentions, both Ταμάρον ποταμου εκβολη, (*Tamar Mouth*,) and *Tamara*. Guided by the landmarks of nature, and the evidence of etymology, many antiquaries have agreed, that the antient Tamara is to be sought for in the modern Tamerton; a conclusion at which those who are best acquainted with local circumstances, will scarcely fail also to arrive, although others, with Horsley, have supposed it to be Saltash. Dr. Borlase, referring to Ptolemy, says "The third city is Tamara, in which the name of the river Tamar, is too strong to be questioned, and Tamerton, on the eastern bank of the river, lies almost opposite to Saltash, and must have been the place." Polwhele, venturing, on very slender and questionable authority, to divide antient Danmonium into *cantreds*, (which he says, gave rise to *hundreds*,) finds the principal town of the cantred of Tamara in *Tamerton* or *Plymouth*. Without adopting this author's fanciful opinions, on the subject of these supposed cantreds, we may conclude that there was a district of some extent, known by the name of Tamara, comprehending, perhaps, the tract of country bounded by the Tamar, the Dartmoor Hills, the Plym, and Plymouth Sound; and that within these boundaries, at the village of King's Tamerton, in the parish of St. Budeaux, the true site of the Tamara of the antients, will probably be found, opposite to Saltash, on the Roman road to the ferry, and from its commanding situation, in full view of the estuary of the

Tamar, (Ταμάρον ἐκβολή,) and therefore a situation likely to be fixed upon, by the Danmonian Britons or the Phœnician traders.

Since Diodorus describes Britain as a populous island, (πολύανθρωπος νῆσος) we may justly conclude, that this description must have applied to that part of the country, concerning which he had received the most accurate information, viz., the metalliferous districts. Hence we infer that the south of Devon, before the Roman æra of our history, was inhabited by a numerous population ;—that on the coast, at the mouths of the rivers flowing down from the hilly country, where the staple commodity of the island was raised, there would be smelting establishments, and ports for the shipment of the metal by foreign merchants ;—that the maritime inhabitants, from their intercourse with these traders, became comparatively civilized, and probably adopted many foreign practices and opinions, whilst the dwellers of the interior retained their nomadic habits, and preserved their primitive superstitions, amidst the Forest wilds and rugged steeps of Dartmoor, as Carrington soothly sings,

These silent vales have swarm'd with human life,—
 These hills have echo'd to the hunter's voice,—
 Here rang the chase,—the battle burn'd,—the notes
 Of Sylvan joy at high festivities,
 Awoke the soul to gladness! Dear to him
 His native hill,—in simple garb attired,
 The mountaineer here rov'd

* * * * *

'Tis said that here
 The Druid wander'd. Haply have these hills
 With shouts ferocious, and the mingled shriek,
 Resounded, when to Jupiter upflam'd
 The human hecatomb. The frantic seer
 Here built his Sacred Circle; for he lov'd
 To worship on the mountain's breast sublime—
 The earth his altar, and the bending heav'n
 His canopy magnificent. The rocks
 That crest the grove-crown'd hill he scoop'd to hold
 The Lustral waters; and to wondering crowds
 And ignorant, with guileful hand, he rock'd
 The yielding Logan.

Pound, and, with the exception of a small portion of the circumference, in a remarkably perfect condition. The area inclosed by it, is boggy ground, although it is very nearly on the highest part of the mountain on which Cosdon Beacon stands, at an elevation of 1792 feet above the level of the sea.

This far-famed beacon bears nearly due south from Belstone church, and was long thought to occupy the loftiest spot in Devonshire, and consequently in the south of England.* But from observations made since the Ordnance Survey, it has been ascertained that Yes Tor, about eight miles to the west, is the highest point of our Dartmoor range; but Cosdon, apparently, has the advantage, from rising immediately, without any intervening high grounds, from the lowland country at its base. From this circumstance, it has more the appearance of a true mountain, than any other of the Dartmoor hills, though Mistor cannot be regarded as a rival of mean pretensions, seen from the gorge of the Walkham.

The cairn is about ninety yards in circumference, and appears to have been opened in two distinct places, where there are hollows of considerable size; but for what purpose, these hollows have been dug, does not appear, unless with the view of forming a kind of hearth for the reception of the fuel of which the beacon fire was made. Few places could have been chosen more admirably adapted for the purpose of rousing the whole neighbourhood than this, where the eye can sweep three-fourths of the entire horizon, and look forth upon the greatest part of North Devon, with large portions of the western and eastern districts of the county, and some of the loftier points of Cornwall, Somerset, and Dorset. Exmoor looms large and distinct in the north, and it is said that the Bristol Channel can be seen in a clear day, which is perfectly possible, while there is no doubt that the English Channel, off Teignmouth, is distinctly visible. Imagine then, the bale-fire kindled on this commanding eminence. Heytor, which rises full in view against the south-eastern sky, would instantly catch the intelligence, and repeat the signal to Buckland Beacon above Ashburton, whence it would be as speedily communicated to Brent. Brent would report to its neighbour the Eastern

* It is perhaps not generally known that the Dartmoor hills are the loftiest south of Cader Idris and Snowdon, Skiddaw, Helvellyn, and Ingleborough.

great mail road from Exeter to Okehampton and Cornwall, which sweeps round the very base of Cosdon Hill. Here an unpretending but convenient inn affords accommodation, such as may well content the moorland tourist, bent on exploring the "wild and wondrous region" extending beyond the mighty eminence, which towers so majestically above the village nestling among the thickets, that fringe the rocky channel of the Taw, here issuing forth into the champaign country, from a noble mountain gorge. Without pausing to ascertain the exact position of Hoga, let it suffice that it must have been sufficiently near to Cosdon, to authorize our making Sticklepath the starting-point of our Forest perambulation.

Proceeding along the high road up the ascent from whence the village derives its name,* at its western extremity, we notice on the left hand, hard by the way-side, and on the verge of a rocky common, the shaft of an antient cross, formed of the durable granite from the neighbouring mountain. It stands nearly six feet high, is about eleven inches in thickness, and has its sides rudely sculptured in curves, lines, and crosses, with little regularity of design; and which having been much defaced, by the weather or by violence, are scarcely discernible, unless the sun shines full upon the shaft. Adjoining the cross, a path winds away into the upland gorge, formed by Cosdon on one side, and the Belstone hills on the other. Looking down upon the windings of the Taw, with the mill and the cottages peering through the trees, on its banks, we are strongly reminded of some of the softer features of Welsh scenery in similar situations. A rugged path through broken ground, high above the river's western bank, leads to Taw Marsh, a plain of considerable extent, and remarkably level, dotted with huge masses of granite and surrounded by lofty eminences, with all the features and incidents characteristic of the peculiar scenery of the moor.† Here is one of the spots where the evidences of some mighty convulsion of nature, strike the beholder with astonishment, and carry irresistible conviction to the mind. The characteristic tors of Belstone, cresting the rocky hills on the west, their sides sloping down to the marshy level through which the Taw winds its way, are strewn with blocks and slabs of granite,

* Stickle-path, the *steep road*, from Sticle, (Sax.) *steep* and *path*. In the Devonshire vernacular, we still retain the Saxon word; a *stickle* roof, is a high-pitched roof.

† See Plate—*Scene on the Taw*.

forming those aggregations of stone, which are known to the moormen by the name of Clatters,* a term expressive of their confused appearance. Among those may be noticed, near the river's brink, one of unusual size, and so singularly shaped, that it has been supposed by some to have been artificially reduced to its present figure; but a slight examination is sufficient to prove that Nature alone has formed its rude outline, like a mimic gnomon of colossal proportions, and planted it firmly in the ground as if to mark the progress of the silent hours of the desert. Down through the rugged and precipitous glen on the south comes the Taw, white with foam, and hastening to sooth his ruffled waters in the level channel of the plain below. Here, in Taw Marsh, the philosophic observer may detect evidences of the existence of groves and woods, which once appear to have clothed the vallies and acclivities of the moor, to a far greater extent than at present. Deep in the antiseptic soil, here, and in similar situations, whence the peat has been removed, branches, trunks, and roots of trees, chiefly oak and birch, have been frequently found, which on exposure to the air speedily acquire great hardness. The birch, as it is well known, delights in the moorland soil, nor is there any just reason for questioning that the trees thus exhumed, once flourished on the spot where they were afterwards submerged in the morass, having probably been gradually undermined by the saturation of the ground with excessive moisture.

Leaving these speculations, and the boggy level, which has given rise to them, let us take advantage of the natural stepping-stones, which, during the summer, may be found in the wider parts of its channel, to cross the Taw, and scale the steeps of Cosdon, which rises abruptly from the eastern bank. Advancing, up the ascent, we shall soon look back upon Belstone church; and taking its tower for a landmark, shall find the advantage of making for the beacon on the summit of the mountain, by shaping our upward course in a south-easterly direction. We shall thus also come upon one of those antient paved ways, in a state of good preservation, principally exhibiting the characteristics of the *trackway*, as described in the former portion of this work, but partaking somewhat of the

* The *Clatter* is sometimes erroneously confounded with the *Tor*; but the latter is the natural rock, cresting the hill, while the Clatter is the collection of stones hurled promiscuously together, along its declivity.

to the supply of water. The streamlet from Raybarrow flows, at a short distance in its course, towards Pain's Bridge; and, still nearer, a tributary of the Teign rises immediately below Shelstone Tor. Both these streams wind their devious way towards Chagford, to unite with the Teign, in its southward progress, while within a few yards of the former, a brook takes its rise from the roots of the Cosdon, and joins the Taw, in its course to the Bristol Channel in the north.

One of these tributaries of the Teign may possibly be the Wotebrook described in the perambulation, as falling into that river. Or it may be the stream which we shall observe in our progress over Endsworthy Hill, flowing in the hollow below towards Wallabrook, but this I am unable to ascertain. Above, on Shelstone and Endsworthy hills, are cairns or barrows, placed, like most other sepulchral monuments of this description, on the crest of the eminences. Nearly due west from Endsworthy, Steeperton Tor and Hound Tor rise above the course of the Taw, but will scarcely offer attractions enough to draw us so far away from the interesting object which we begin to discern, after we cross Buttern Hill and descend the slope of Scorhill Down,—the SACRED CIRCLE already described.

This is by far the finest example of the rude but venerable shrines of Druidical worship in Devonshire; and although unnoticed by antiquaries or topographers, may successfully dispute the palm with many that have acquired historical celebrity, such as the circle at Castle Rigg, near Keswick, or that at Rollricht, in Oxfordshire. Scorhill* Circle, stands near the tor of that name, on the downs, west of Gidleigh Park, and at a short distance above the Wallabrook, at its confluence with the North Teign. The rugged angular appearance of the massive stones, of which this rude hypæthral temple is constructed, forms a striking contrast to the Grey Wethers—the Sacred Circle—below Sittaford Tor, which are of a squarer, and more truncated form. The two principal columnar masses in this granite peristyle, stand at nearly opposite points of the circle; the highest rising nearly eight feet from the surface, and the other standing upwards of six feet. The lowest are about three feet high; several have fallen, but twenty of these time-worn obelisks still maintain their erect position, and circumscribe an area of about one hundred

* Qy.? *Scaur.* q. d. Scaurhill.



C. F. Williams del.

SACRED CIRCLE, GIDLEIGH COMMON

J. Hauck, lith.

feet in diameter. There is no appearance of any central column or altar, and the whole of the inclosed area has evidently been industriously cleared of stones, as the surrounding common, without the consecrated precinct, is abundantly strewed with the usual moorstone. Such, then, is the finest and most complete specimen of Druidical temples, or shrines, in Devonshire; and few spots could have been chosen more in accordance with our notions of the requirements of that singular system of worship, which, as we learn, from undoubted contemporary testimony, was carried to such a pitch of perfection in Britain, that the Gauls, who wished to be initiated into its most recondite mysteries, repaired to this island for instruction,* as to the general university of the Druidical communion.

Our course now leads to the Wallabrook, which flows at the foot of Scorhill Down. The means of crossing is afforded by one of the primitive bridges already described, consisting of a single slab of ponderous granite, fifteen feet long, nearly three wide, and twenty inches thick. Proceeding westwards, we shall cross the swampy flat between the Wallabrook and North Teign, and mount Watern Hill to examine the singular tor, which forms so conspicuous an object on the northern extremity of the ridge. Watern Tor is one of the many remarkable natural conformations of the granite rock which will repay a more particular examination. It consists of a series of piles, rising from the ridge of the hill, the stratification of which presents the appearance of laminar masses, in a horizontal position. The two piles at the N.N.E. extremity, in one part, near the top, approach so closely, as to appear to unite, when seen from some points of view, leaving a large oval aperture in the tor, through which the moormen say, a man can ride on horseback. But on a closer examination, it will be observed that there is an interval of at least one foot wide in the narrowest part; and in the widest, the piles stand about eight feet apart, leaving ample room for man and horse to pass through. This aperture appears to have given rise to the name of Thirlstone,† by which this part of the tor is known. The lesser of the two piles, if viewed apart from the rest of the tor, is not

* *Disciplina in Britannia reperta, atque inde in Galliam translata esse existimatur. Et nunc qui diligentius eam rem cognoscere volunt, plerumque illò, discendi caussa, proficiscuntur.* CÆSAR *Bell. Gall.* lib. vi. 13.

† Thirlstone—*thirl*, *dirl*, or *drill*-stone; the perforated stone.

unlike the far-famed Cheeswring, on the Cornish moors, but the courses, (to borrow a term from masonry,) are thinner. Its elevation is about twenty feet above the grassy surface of the hill. Had rock-basins been merely natural formations, I think many would have been found on Watern Tor, but I could not detect one example.

Following the ridge of the hill, at the southern extremity, we shall observe a large barrow, or cairn, of the ordinary description. Other similar cairns will be noticed on the opposite hill, near Wild Tor, and on the higher hills above Taw Head, towards which we shall now bend our course, bearing due west, from the cairn on Watern Hill. Watern Tor being a well-known object, may serve the tourist as a landmark, in his search for Cranmere Pool, which hides itself almost as successfully, from the Dartmoor explorer, as the Nile concealed his fountains, from the antients. From the cairn at the eastern end of Watern Hill, above mentioned, we descend to the Wallabrook, (there only a small rivulet near its source,) and proceeding westward to White Horse Hill, which is a track of high heathy land, undistinguished by tors, ridges, or bold features, but probably taking its name from large patches of the granite floor of the mountain,* having been laid bare, and whitened by exposure. In this immediate neighbourhood, quantities of turf are cut for fuel, and somewhat beyond the farthest point of the turf-cutters' operations,† the approach to Cranmere may be made on horseback, without difficulty. The tourist will find himself on the borders of the vast expanse of boggy table land, which characterizes the remotest and most inaccessible parts of the moorland wilderness. If he has penetrated thus far by the aid of a Dartmoor pony, he will find it prudent to take advantage of the rude hut, which the turf-cutters have raised for temporary shelter against "the war of elements" in this wild spot,—to leave his horse, and will pursue his toilsome way, on foot, towards Cranmere Pool. The way in itself is toilsome, as you are continually plunging into the plashy soil; or to avoid getting knee-deep in the bogs, are constrained to leap from tuft to tuft, of the firmer patches of rushy ground. Nor is there anything in the surrounding scenery to cheer the wanderer, who requires a succession of new and attractive

* Presenting, probably, at a distance, the rude outline of the figure of a horse.

† The moormen call the spots where peat is cut for fuel, *turves* (i.e. *turf*) *ties*.

objects, to animate him in his progress. Here the image of "a waste and howling wilderness" is fully realized. Glance where it may, the same slightly undulating, but unvarying surface of heath, common, and morass, presents itself to the eye. Scarcely even a granite block on the plain, or a tor on the higher ground, "breaks the deep-felt monotony" of the scene. Yet in this very monotony there is a charm, for it gives birth to a feeling, that you are now in the domains of primæval Nature, and that this is one of the few spots where no indications of man's presence or occupancy are to be traced. The few sounds that, at long intervals, disturb the brooding silence of the desert,—the plaintive cry of the curlew, or the whirring rustle of the heath-fowl,* roused by the explorer's unexpected tread,—the sighing wind, suddenly wrapping him perhaps in a mist-wreath, or the feeble tinklings of the infant streamlets,—for we are now amidst the fountains of the Dartmoor rivers,—are all characteristic of the scene; and wild, remote, and solitary as it is, this central morass, is thus associated with the richest, most populous, and loveliest spots of our fair and fertile Devon. Hence then in imagination we follow the mountain-born streams, along their devious course to the distant ocean, through green pastures and wavy corn fields,—by the noisy mill and the plenteous farm,—now lingering by the fragrant-blossomed orchard, and now sweeping by the golden furze-clad hill; now flashing in sunshine along the enamelled meadows, and now darkling beneath deep "o'erarching groves;" at one time, mirroring the simple cottages and grey steeple of the sequestered village, and anon where the tidal waters have widened into a lake and deepened into a harbour, bearing on their ample bosom, the riches of commerce and the terrors of war,—reflecting the bristling masts of the crowded port,—or the guarded battlements of the frowning citadel. All these are present to the mind's eye; and whilst by contrast with the visible objects around, they render the desert still more waste and lonely, they will not fail to remind us of the justice of the poet's acknowledgment of the obligations of the smiling lowlands, to Dartmoor, as "the source of half their beauty."†

* Among the heathery tracts with which this part of the moor abounds, a few pairs of the diminished packs of heath-fowl still find shelter. The curlew and lapwing also breed among these central swamps.

† The principal rivers which have their source in this, the north table-land of Dartmoor, may here be enumerated; they all rise within the boundaries of the North Quarter.

Accordingly Carrington has sung the "Urn of Cranmere" in strains of harmonious eulogy.

What time the lib'ral mountain-flood has fill'd
The Urn of Cranmere, and the moisten'd moor
Pours to the dales the largess of the heavens !
O let me wander then, while freshness breathes,
Along the grateful meads, and list the voice
Dartmoor—exhaustless Dartmoor—of thy streams,
Thou land of streams !

But Cranmere Pool itself is not, as it is sometimes supposed, the source of the numerous streams which pour down from the reservoir which Nature has established in this lofty but humid region.

The **DART**, formed of the **EAST DART**, rising as above, and with numerous nameless tributaries flowing under Hartland Hill to Post Bridge; and of the **WEST DART** receiving, the Cowsick, Blackabrook, Cherrybrook, &c. The two branches unite at Dartmeet Bridge; receive the Webburn near Holne Chase; and flowing by Buckfastleigh and Totness, the **DART** finally reaches the sea at Dartmouth, after a course of about forty miles.

The **TEIGN**, which is the next river northwards, also consists of two main branches. The **NORTH TEIGN** rises near Sittaford Tor, north of the Grey Wethers Circle, takes an easterly course towards Gidleigh commons, where it receives the Wallabrook, as already mentioned; and being joined near Chagford by the **SOUTH TEIGN**, which also rises near the Grey Wethers, the united stream passes under Chagford, Fingle, Clifford and Dunsford bridges amidst some of the most picturesque and striking scenery; and bounding the moorland district to the eastward proceeds by a southerly course towards Chudleigh and Teigngrace, where it receives the Bovey, and receiving a tributary from Newton, disembogues itself into the sea at Teignmouth.

The **TAW**, rises as above described, near Cranmere Pool, and taking a northerly direction, flows below Cosdon Hill and Belstone, and leaves the moor at Sticklepath. In its northward progress it gives name to South and North Tawton; and being joined by the Yeo, near Eggesford; by the Little Dart, near Chulmleigh; and the Mole, from Southmolton; flows into the Bristol Channel, in Barnstaple Bay.

The **WEST OCKMENT**, or **OCKMENT**, taking its source in Cranmere Pool, flows below Yestor, to Okehampton, and there is joined by the East Ockment, from the glen below Belstone and Okehampton Park. It takes a northward course, through the centre of the county, and falls into the Torridge, near Meeth.

The **LYD** rises in the hollow below Branscomb Loaf; flows south by Doe Tor; forces its passage through the rocky chasm at Skit's Hole; thence through the celebrated ravines of Lydford, and beneath its romantic bridge towards Maristow, where it receives the Lew water; and being increased by the Thrushel Brook, renders its tributary waters to the Tamar, near Lifton.

The **TAVY** rises about a mile westward from Cranmere Pool, below Great Kneeset Tor; flows north of Furtor and Watern Oak; above Tavy Cleave is joined by Rattlebrook, which comes from the north down a deep valley below Amicombe Hill; leaves the moor by a fine mountain gorge between Gertor (or Great Tor) and Stannon Hill; flows amidst a succession of picturesque scenery to Tavistock, and receiving the **WALKHAM**, at Screeches Ford, passes under Denham Bridge through the richly-wooded dales of Buckland Abbey and Maristow, to join the Tamar, at Beer Ferrers, where the noble estuary presents all the appearance of an inland lake of singular beauty.

The **WALKHAM**, (above mentioned,) incorrectly called, in the Ordnance Map, **WALLACOMB**, rises in a swamp below Lints Tor, and taking a southerly course, leaves Great Mistor on the left; flows under Merivale Bridge and Huckworthy Bridge, by Walkhampton, to which probably it gives name, and thence through Horrabridge to its junction with the Tavy.

Taw Head is half-a-mile distant, eastward; the sources of the Tavy are under Great Kneeset, a mile to the south-west; Dart Head, about the same distance south; and the springs of the Teign still farther, in a south-easterly direction. The Ockment alone flows from Cranmere Pool, which is the largest piece of water in Dartmoor or its precincts, where we can boast of nothing like the mountain tarns of Wales and Cumberland. It is exceedingly difficult to find without a guide; and when the indefatigable tourist has reached the object of his toilsome walk, he may perhaps scarcely think that the deep dark-looking hollow before him, imperfectly filled with water, has repaid him for the trouble he has taken, to penetrate the watery fastnesses of the moor. Cranmere Pool is of an oblong form, and at its brink is about 220 yards in circumference; the bank appeared to have been dug through on the northern side when I saw it in July, 1844. In this direction, the springs of the Ockment find an outlet, and flow below Lints Tor and Amicombe Hill, towards Okehampton.

We shall find nothing to detain us in the Cranmere morasses, from whence these variously wandering streams take their rise, after we have satisfied our curiosity with the inspection of the pool, and shall therefore return to the White Horse Hill. Proceeding eastward, we shall notice some vestiges of antient mining operations, above the course of the North Teign, which we shall cross by a primitive Cyclopean bridge of three openings, in a state of high preservation. In character, it is similar to Post Bridge already described, but on a smaller scale. The piers are built of rough unwrought granite masses; and the roadway over, is rather less than seven feet wide, formed of slabs of the same durable material. The length of the bridge is twenty-seven feet.

Passing over the hill, through extensive turf-ties, towards Sittaford Tor, we reach the circles popularly known by the name of Grey Wethers. The circumferences of these circles almost touch each other. They were originally constructed of twenty-five stones each; nine remain erect in one, and seven in the other. The largest has been displaced and lies on the ground. It is a slab four feet nine inches wide, less than a foot thick, and must have originally stood about five feet high. Both circles are one hundred and twenty feet in diameter.

Returning eastward and leaving the North Teign on the left,

within two miles from Grey Wethers, we shall reach Frogymead Hill, adjoining Fenworthy. Here is another circle of a similar description but of smaller dimensions. Its diameter is sixty feet. The stones of which it is formed are twenty-seven, (about three feet apart,) still preserving their original position. The highest stands four feet from the ground.

Leaving the South Teign, which flows near Fenworthy Farm, and proceeding northward, about a mile and half from Frogymead, we shall explore a cluster of remarkable relics, beginning with the Gidleigh Rock Pillar, called, in the Ordnance Map, LONGSTONE, to which reference has already been made. The letters D. G. inscribed on two of the faces, show that this primitive obelisk has been used as a boundary stone in modern times; but that it is a fine specimen of the genuine Maen Hir, of antiquity, there can be no reasonable doubt. (*See plate.*) It stands on the slope of a hill about a mile S.W. of Castor Rock, and is evidently in connexion with the avenues and circles, referred to in the former part of this work.

The avenues, although presenting the same general features with those at Merivale, are in far less perfect preservation. If any of these parallelithons deserve the name of *Cursus*, which has been sometimes applied to them, from the supposition that they were designed as race courses, by our British forefathers, the Longstone Avenue certainly could not have been one. The ground is ill-adapted for the purposes of a hippodrome; and, on the other hand, the construction and arrangements (as shown in the accompanying plate) are all indicative of its character as a *Via Sacra*, or *processional road* of Druidical worship, according to the Arkite ceremonial. Beginning on the acclivity above Longstone Maen, the avenue passes over the hill, towards the Teign, in the direction of the great Sacred Circle, on Scorhill Down, above described. The Teign flows at the distance of about half a mile, and this avenue terminates in full view of another, near at hand, which runs down the declivity towards the river. At its southern extremity is a dilapidated cairn, the only example observed in the immediate neighbourhood. The avenue instead of being perfectly straight, as at Merivale and Stanlake, in the West Quarter, is, in some parts, slightly curvilinear. This is the only indication of an *ophite* feature, which I have been able to detect, in any of the Danmonian avenues; and it is so slightly serpentine,



P. Gaud. del.

LONGSTONE ROCK-PILLAR,
GIDLEIGH COMMON.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

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G. P. Williams, del.

as scarcely to warrant the conclusion, that the vestiges of a Dracontium, or Serpent Temple, may here be traced. The avenue appears suddenly to stop; as it seems impossible to trace any connexion with another, whose course, if continued, would have made a right angle with the former. From its second commencement it runs nearly direct, and almost parallel to another, at a short distance down the declivity eastward. Of these avenues, the eastern line could be traced only forty-one yards, but the western is one hundred and forty yards in length, taking its commencement in a circle, adjoining which is another Maen, lying on the ground, ten feet long. This avenue runs down the hill, becoming more and more imperfect, until it disappears, for a considerable interval. There is, however, apparently, a distinct termination in two erect stones, which stand apart, although evidently in the same line.

Taking Castor Rock for our landmark, we shall now bend our steps northwards, and on the western acclivity of the hill from which that conspicuous tor rises, we shall notice an interesting specimen of the hut circle, or ruined habitation, surrounded by an external inclosure. By the moormen it is well known as the Roundy Pound, and is situated near a moorland road which forms the boundary between the parishes of Chagford and Gidleigh. The inner circle, which seems to be the basement of a ruined dwelling, is forty-five yards in circumference. Between this and the outer circle, which is ninety-six yards in circumference, an area is left, conveying the idea of a courtyard surrounded by a circular Cyclopean wall of great thickness, formed, like those in other similar examples, of granite masses rudely piled together. The door-jambs, which remain erect in their original position, mark the entrance, and the whole presents the appearance of the dilapidated dwelling of a primitive sheep-master or herdsman.

Castor Rock rises high above Chagford; and standing on one of the outposts of Dartmoor, forms a conspicuous object from a large tract of North Devon, and consequently commands a varied and extensive prospect. From Cosdon, in the N.W., to Maredon in the E. the eye ranges round a grand amphitheatre of moor and mountain. Besides Cosdon Beacon, Yestor, Watern Tor, White Horse Hill, Warren Tor, Heytor, and East Down, above Manadon, are all conspicuous eminences. Haldon, the Blackdown hills, and Exmoor,

bound the view in the distant horizon. Chagford "tower and town" are seen on the slope below Middledown in front, with the rocky dells and sylvan wilds of Gidleigh on one side, and the glades and groves of Whiddon Park on the other.

On Castor, is no rock-basin; but on Middletor, a singular rock on the same common, is a very perfect specimen, almost circular in form, and about six inches deep. One side of this tor overhangs at least ten feet, and forms a massive granite canopy, under which the cattle frequently are seen to take shelter. Descending the hill towards Chagford, we pass over Teigncombe Down, where many tracklines and other antient vestiges will be noticed. Teigncombe Common lane, through which our course now leads, may be noticed as a curiosity. Of all the approaches to the moor, by which turf, furze, &c. are conveyed to the neighbouring farms and villages, and cattle driven, this is certainly the most extraordinary. It is difficult to conceive anything bearing the name of a road, less suited to the purpose than Teigncombe Common lane, which is nothing more than a gully between two hedges. The steep floor is bare granite, strewn with bowlders and stones of the same material, many of them deposited there by the force of torrents rushing from the hills. I learn that in former years, all the turf for the supply of the immediate neighbourhood was brought down through this lane, on packhorses, but since carts have come into general use, it is now only traversed by the sure-footed moor pony, or by cattle pasturing on the commons above.

In our downward progress we follow the course of the South Teign, through broken ground and little verdant crofts, so characteristic of the moorland borders, to Yeo Bridge. Here the banks rise into steep cliffs, and form richly-wooded dells, at the bottom of which the stream hurries along, foaming over the rocky masses of which the channel is formed. Just above Lee Bridge, is the junction of the North and South Teign, whose united waters run from thence towards Holy-street, through the deep and rugged glen which bounds Gidleigh Park on the south. Scarcely half a mile above Holy-street, a tor rises near the river's brink on the south side, called, by the country people, the Puckie, or Puggie Stone,* and

* For the means of examining this basin, as it can only be reached by a ladder, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Nicolas Clampit, the hospitable occupier of the interesting old mansion at Holy-street, one of the Forest tenants. I was here shown a

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celebrated for the large rock-basin, or pan, (as it is popularly called,) on its summit. The antiquary, trusting to local report, will be disappointed when, after having succeeded in scaling the rock, he finds that the characteristics of the genuine rock-basin, as described above, (p. 29,) are not sufficiently clear to enable him to pronounce, that this is not one of the examples, attributable exclusively to the operation of natural agencies. Although of large size, it is not of the usual circular form, nor do its sides display any decisive indications of artificial adaptation. But if disappointed in the main object of his research, the explorer will be repaid for his escalade, by the commanding view he will have gained of the wild-wood glen down which the Teign rushes, foaming along its rock-bound channel, in all the youthful vigour of a mountain-born torrent. And if on his descent from the crest of the Puckie Rock, he will brave the difficulties of the rugged glen before him, and thread his adventurous path up the course of the North Teign, he will skirt the fine woodland scenery of Gidleigh Park, until he emerges upon the moor, amidst the countless granite masses which strew the steep sides of the declivity, or have been precipitated into the channel of the river, checking the force of the headlong current for a moment, and forming a succession of miniature cascades. Among these, let us pause to remark a singular mass, lying near the right or northern bank of the river, as we ascend the stream, which, had there been no other object of attraction, would repay the antiquary for his walk up this sequestered and romantic glen.

This granite mass, approaching to an irregular rectangular form, on its north side is imbedded in the channel of the Teign, and rests

semicircular stone, which appears originally to have formed half of a circle of eighteen inches diameter. There had evidently been a hole perforated in the centre, about two inches in diameter, and the appearance of the stone altogether, was that of part of the upper stone of an ancient QUEEN, or hand-mill. It had been dug out of a swampy spot on Holy-street farm, which Mr. Clampit was engaged in draining. There were several others of a similar description, and one, a perfect circle, with a hole in the centre, taken from the spot at some considerable depth below the surface. If not parts of the ancient hand-mills referred to in Holy Writ, (ISA. xlvii. 2, JER. xxiii. 10, MATT. xxiv. 41, &c.) universally used among the nations of the east, and doubtless known to the Phœnicians, and to our aboriginal ancestors, I am at a loss to conjecture for what purpose such stones could have been intended. If they really are parts of primitive querns, or hand-mills, then have we in our moorland district, not only numerous remains of the dwellings of the original inhabitants, but a curious specimen of their domestic utensils. The hole is exactly similar to that described by Fosbroke, as made in the upper mill-stone of the antients, for pouring in the corn. (*Enc. Antiq.*, 308.) He remarks that specimens are quite common, and refers to one figured in Montfaucon.

on two subjacent rocks, at an angle of about twenty-five degrees. The outline of the stone, above the surface, measures about thirty feet, and near the southern edge is a large and deep perforation, of a form so regular, that, at first view, it will scarcely fail to convey the idea of artificial preparation, and to warrant its classification among the granitic apparatus of the Druidical ritual. But a closer inspection will probably lead to the conclusion that natural circumstances, within the range of possibility, might have concurred to produce this singular conformation; although, on the other hand, it is far from improbable, that advantage might have been taken of some favourable accident of nature, and, as in the case of the Logan-stone, art had perfected the operations of nature, and this remarkable cavity had thus been adapted to the rites of Druidism, for lustration or some other religious ceremonial; which is the tradition connected with this stone by the legendary chroniclers of the moor.

But its present condition, (as it has no bottom,) precludes the possibility of its having been used as a rock-basin, except in some extraordinary flood, when the waters of the river might rise above the under surface of the block, and partially fill the cavity, so as to admit of its being appropriated to the purposes of a font, or lustral vessel. It presents the appearance of a cylindrical trough, hollowed out in the granite; just three feet in diameter at the top, about two feet ten inches at bottom, and two feet eight in depth, with a convexity in the middle like a barrel. The outer side, towards the centre of the stream, is partially broken away, thus rendering the cylinder imperfect in that direction, leaving a curved breach in the southern face of the mass, about two feet high, and thus adding to the singular appearance of this curious relic, whether seen from the northern or southern bank of the river. When this breach might have taken place, and whether in past ages the bottom and side might not have been perfect, can, of course, be only matter of conjecture. Under these circumstances, or on the supposition that the river might occasionally rise, sufficiently high to fill the cavity, its being employed for lustral purposes is perfectly imaginable. To this or some other Druidical ceremonial, it is traditionally supposed to have been appropriated; and while this primitive font was so used for adults, the legends of the moor relate that a smaller one (which is supposed to have been destroyed) was resorted to for children.



C. P. Williams, del^t

TOLMEN, NORTH TEIGN,
NEAR CHAGFORD

P. Gauci, lith.

Without therefore pronouncing that this was never "a rock" which the Druid "scooped to hold the lustral waters," the antiquary will not fail to have suggested to his mind another kind of aboriginal relic, from an inspection of this curious memorial of by-gone ages. From its present aspect, he will probably conclude that it should rather be pronounced a Tolmen, and if it really belong to this class of relics, the interest with which we shall regard it, will be much increased, as it is the only known specimen in Devonshire. It has hitherto escaped the notice of topographers and antiquaries, and while the Cromlech, Logan-stone, Grimspound, &c., are popularly known, and have been described in county histories and topographical and antiquarian works, this singular relic, unique in its character, and obscure in its destination, is known only to the oral topographers of the moor.

The TOLMEN, OR HOLED STONE, as the word, in Cornish, implies, is found in Cornwall, in Ireland, and, according to Fosbroke, in the East Indies. This learned antiquary describes the tolmen as a perforated stone for drawing children through, and adults also; and adds that "two brass pins were carefully laid across each other on the top edge of this stone for oracular purposes."* With reference to the great Tolmen, at Constantine, near Penryn, Gilbert, in his History of Cornwall, observes that it seems probable that the aperture was an instrument of superstitious "juggle, and applied to the purposes of purification or penance, or for the removal of bodily disorders."† Borlase, on the other hand, regards the tolmen as a rock idol. "There is another kind of stone deity, which has never been taken notice of by any other author that I have heard of; its common name, in Cornwall and Scilly, is Tolmen, or the Hole of Stone." Besides the celebrated specimen at Constantine, he mentions one on St. Mary's Island, (Scilly,) at the Salakee Downs, and the other on the little isle of Northwithee. All these, however, are huge masses resting upon natural rocks below, and leaving apertures beneath, but near Lanyon, is one of the same description as our Teign tolmen, (as I would venture to designate it,) though incomparably less curious. It is described by Gilbert, as one of "three erect stones, on a triangular

* *Enc. Antiq.* p. 75.

† *Historical Survey of Cornwall*, vol. i., p. 177. Plymouth-Dock, 1817.

plane." The tolmen "is thin, flat, and fixed in the ground on its edge; it has a hole in the middle near two feet in diameter, from whence it is called, *Men-an-tol*, that is, the holed stone." This evidently however, is artificially set up, whereas, our *Men-an-tol* in the Teign, seems to have been placed in the bed of the river by natural agency.

Mr. Harcourt unhesitatingly connects the tolmen with some recondite mysteries of Arkite worship, since, as he finds them in connexion with other Arkite monuments on Brimham Moor, near Pately Bridge, Yorkshire, he concludes they can leave no doubt of the religious system to which they belonged. The description given of these monuments, by a writer in the *Archæologia*, would lead them generally to be classed as Druidical relics, strictly speaking, even if it be granted that Druidism is a more recent form of Arkite superstition. This account is quoted by Mr. Harcourt, and may be adduced in proof of the opinion above advanced,—that the holed stone of the Teign is a Druidical monument of the tolmen class. Among other relics, three tolmen are described. "One of them with an aperture through which a man might pass, and a rock-basin at each entrance; in another, the passage was three feet and a half across, and contained a rock-basin three feet in diameter. The excavation in the third, is little more than three feet square at the entrance, and runs in a straight direction no more than six feet; but on the right hand side, a round hole, two feet only in diameter, is perforated quite through the rock to the length of sixteen feet. And from this form, it has obtained the name of the great cannon. A road has been made over a bed of rock on purpose to reach it, and the whole rock is ninety-six feet in circumference. Lastly he describes an assemblage of rocks which seem to have been a chosen spot for religious ceremonies: "here," says he, "we find rock idols, altars, circular holes, evidently cut in the sides of rocks, and passages between, for some sacred mysterious purpose."*

The accompanying circumstances of the tolmen in the Teign are strikingly similar. The sacred circle stands at a short distance on Scorhill Down. On Middleton, near Castor Rock, on the other side of the Teign, is a fine rock-basin. Not far south-west is placed the Longstone Pillar, already described, in immediate connexion with the

* *Doct. Deluge*, vol. ii., p. 509.

cursus or parallelithons, on the slope of the hill below Batworthy. Here then, as at Brimham Moor, we find an assemblage of relics, "which seems to indicate a chosen spot for religious ceremonies;" and here, as in the Yorkshire example, we find the tolmen in immediate connexion with other monuments of primitive character and incontestable antiquity. Should the tourist, instead of proceeding up the glen from Holy-street, visit the tolmen, from Longstone and the avenues, he will find it, by following the course of the Teign downwards, at forty yards from the spot where the Wallabrook falls into that river, immediately opposite a new-take wall, which separates Batworthy from the moor, and which terminates on the southern bank, in front of the holed part of the stone.

I have remarked that the assemblage of relics at this spot seems to designate it as a place dedicated, in past ages, to the celebration of religious ceremonies, the general nature of which it is not difficult to conjecture, although it may not be easy to assign to the different monuments the particular ceremonies for which they were originally designed. But the observation may be justly extended to a much wider scope, than the immediate precincts of the Teign tolmen. The whole neighbourhood is rich in Druidical and aboriginal relics, and if the antiquary wished to establish himself at a point where, as from a centre, he could, within a moderate circumference, have the means of inspecting a specimen of the several monuments of Danmonian antiquity, he could fix on no place more advantageously situated for the accomplishment of his wishes, than the pleasant little town of Chagford, where he will find homely but comfortable accommodation at a respectable inn, and be placed within reach of those various objects of antiquarian interest and picturesque beauty, with which the neighbourhood abounds.

Chagford itself, as an antient stannary and market-town, built on a pleasing acclivity, backed by the lofty eminence of Middledown with its jagged crest,—a prominent outpost of the granite range,—with the moor stretching away indefinitely in the distance, and the diversified vale of the Teign, directly in front, is well worthy of a visit. It presents some of the most interesting characteristics of our moorland border-towns. There is an air of picturesque informality in its general appearance. Many of the houses are of moorstone—grey, antient-looking, substantial; some with projecting porches and parvise-

room over, and granite-mullion'd windows,—like the hostelry already commemorated,—while a perennial stream, fresh from the neighbouring hills, and clear as that which flowed from the Blandusian fount, speeds vivaciously along the principal street, through a clean moorstone channel. The church, substantially built of native granite, with its sturdy steeple of the same durable material,—embattled porch with granite-groined vault, springing from low columns, with Norman-looking capitals,—appropriately forms the central and principal object, among the simple buildings of this quiet, retired border town. The quaint little market-place, is in perfect keeping with the accompanying features of the scene. Standing apart from any great thoroughfare, the echoes of the Chagford hills are never awakened by the “twanging horn,” nor its streets roused by the rattle of the stage-coach or royal mail. At the door of the Three Crowns, a postchaise is still, in the middle of the nineteenth century, enough of a phenomenon, to collect a group of rustic gazers. The public conveyance which maintains a periodical intercourse with Exeter, has not yet been dignified with the *elegant* euphuism of *Omnibus*. The carriage road from Moreton to Okehampton and the north of Devon, passes over Rushford Bridge, about a mile from the town; but the roads and lanes leading to the adjacent parishes, hamlets, farms, and commons, are, for the most part, so steep and rugged, as to be ill-adapted for any vehicles, where springs form an integral requisite in the construction. Accordingly the methods of conveyance and transit, partake of the olden times, and are characteristic alike of the country and the inhabitants. Breasting a formidable ascent on the south, the road to Ashburton is much better adapted to the packhorse of the last century, than to the carts or waggons of the present day; while the upland track,—which the western traveller, to his no small wonder, is admonished, by a timely finger-post, to follow, as the road to Tavistock,—scales a precipitous hill, and would have been far more suited to the wary paces of the palfrey of the abbot of that antient borough, in by-gone days, than to the poles and springs of the Broughams and Britschkas of modern times. Instead of the convenient market-car of the lowlands, we therefore observe, without surprise, that panniers maintain the ascendancy with the rustic dames of the neighbourhood; and the phenomenon of a *double horse*, with saddle and pad, or even the

antiquarian curiosity of a pillion, may still be met with in the rugged and narrow by-ways of a district, where rural manners and old-world customs still linger, and find an asylum, which modern fashions render every day more precarious and untenable. Among the patriarchs of the hills, the straight-breasted blue coat, (the relic and memorial of the *'prentice suit*, or the wedding garments,) made before the revolutionary innovation of lappels had been imported from republican France, may still be seen with (but a much rarer occurrence) the shoe fastened with buckle and strap, a memorial of the days of "their hot youth, when George the Third was king." In the market and at church, the observant eye will trace also, among the elder women, the vestiges of the fashions of their youth, in the carefully preserved red cloak, with its graceful and convenient hood,—the respectable looking, matronly silk bonnet, edged with black lace, and set off by the becoming mob cap of past generations. On a rainy day, the costume of such a matron will be characteristically completed by the umbrella, with which she protects her head-gear from the impending shower. The faded green cotton material; the stout stick, with a few faint vestiges of original paint, the ring at the top; the substantial whalebone ribs, enough to furnish forth a dozen of the flimsy productions of modern bazaars; the absence of crook and ferule, (and every similar contrivance to make the umbrella perform the additional duty of a walking-stick;) all characterise this as a specimen of original construction, and point to a time when the appearance of this useful invention, at a Devonshire church, would cause a general sensation in the congregation, and furnish more than a nine days' wonder to the whole neighbourhood.

Many agricultural implements, which have quite disappeared in the more level districts, will still be found in the homesteads of the hilly country. In such a place as Chagford, the cooper, or rough carpenter, will still find a demand for the packsaddle, with its accompanying furniture of *crooks*, *crubs*, or *dung-pots*. Before the general introduction of carts, these rough and ready contrivances were found of great utility, in the various operations of husbandry, and still prove exceedingly convenient in situations almost, or altogether, inaccessible to wheel carriages. The *long crooks* are used for the carriage of corn, in sheaf, from the harvest field to the mowstead or barn,—for the removal of furze, *browse*, faggot-wood, and other light

materials. The writer of one of the happiest effusions of the local muse, with fidelity to nature, equal to Cowper or Crabbe, has introduced the figure of a Devonshire packhorse, bending under the "swagging load" of the high-piled *crooks*, as an emblem of Care, toiling along the narrow and rugged path of life.* The force and point of the imagery must be lost, to those who have never seen (and as in an instance which came under my own knowledge, never heard of) this unique specimen of provincial agricultural machinery. The crooks are formed of two poles, about ten feet long, bent, when

* *Care pushes by them, o'erladen with crooks.*—THE DEVONSHIRE LANE, by the late Rev. John Marriott, sometime Vicar of Broadclist, Devon. While I can readily imagine that the identical lane which furnished the excellent author with his original sketch, may be found in the neighbourhood of Broadclist, and while I could fancy that one bowery lane, in particular, leading towards Poltimore, might have *sat* for the picture, yet there are so many of our moorland border-lanes which exhibit an exact family likeness, that every feature of a scene so faithfully depicted and so felicitously applied, may be traced, in numerous instances, especially in the environs of Chagford, Moreton, Ashburton, Plympton, &c. The insertion of the entire piece,—so happily illustrative of the peculiar features of Devonshire scenery,—and which is much less extensively known than its merits deserve, will, I am satisfied, require no apology.

In a Devonshire lane, as I trotted along
 T'other day, much in want of a subject for song,
 Thinks I to myself, I have hit on a strain,
 Sure marriage is much like a Devonshire lane.
 In the first place 'tis long, and when once you are in it,
 It holds you as fast, as a cage does a linnet;
 For howe'er rough and dirty, the road may be found,
 Drive forward you must, there is no turning round.
 But though 'tis so long, it is not very wide,
 For two are the most that together can ride;
 And e'en then, 'tis a chance, but they get in a pothor,
 And jostle and cross and run foul of each other.
 Oft Poverty greets them with mendicant looks,
 And Care pushes by them, o'erladen with crooks;
 And Strife's grazing wheels try between them to pass,
 And Stubbornness blocks up the way on her ass.
 Then the banks are so high, to the left hand and right,
 That they shut up the beauties around them from sight;
 And hence you'll allow 'tis an inference plain,
 That marriage is just like a Devonshire lane.
 But thinks I too, these banks, within which we are pent,
 With bud, blossom, and berry, are richly besprent;
 And the conjugal fence, which forbids us to roam,
 Looks lovely, when deck'd with the comforts of home.
 In the rock's gloomy crevice, the bright holly grows;
 The ivy waves fresh o'er the withering rose,
 And the evergreen love of a virtuous wife,
 Soothes the roughness of care,—cheers the winter of life.
 Then long be the journey, and narrow the way,
 I'll rejoice that I've seldom a turnpike to pay;
 And whate'er others say, be the last to complain,
 Though marriage is just like a Devonshire lane.

green, into the required curve, and when dried in that shape, are connected by horizontal bars. A pair of crooks, thus completed, is slung over the packsaddle,—one, “swinging on each side, to make the balance true.” The short crooks, or *crubs*, are slung in a similar manner. These are of stouter fabric, and angular shape, and are used for carrying logs of wood, and other heavy materials. The dungpots, as the name implies, were also much in use, in past times, for the removal of dung and other manure from the farm yard to the fallows or ploughlands. The *slide*, or sledge, may also still occasionally be seen in the hay or cornfields, sometimes without, and in other cases mounted on, low wheels, rudely but substantially formed of thick plank, such as might have brought the antient Roman’s harvest-load to the barn, some twenty centuries ago.*

The primitive contrivance for hanging the gates of the moorland crofts and commons, may also be seen in this neighbourhood. No iron hinge of any kind, nor gate-post is employed. An oblong moor-stone block, in which a socket is drilled, is built into the wall, from which it projects sufficiently to receive the back stanchion of the gate, while a corresponding socket is sunk in a similar stone fixed in the ground below, unless a natural rock should be found *in situ*, suitable for the purpose, which is frequently the case. The gate, thus secured, swings freely, swivel-like, in these sockets; and thus, from materials on the spot, without the assistance of iron, a simple, durable, and efficient hinge is formed by the rural engineer.

The flail,† with its monotonous strokes, still resounds from the barn-floors of all our smaller farms, where economy or attachment to old usages, has prevented the introduction of the modern threshing-machine. Still more rarely is the old method of winnowing resorted to; but in a few instances the *Windstow* may yet be seen, where the process is accomplished by simple manual labour,—the grain being subjected to the action of the wind, on some elevated spot, and passed through sieves, shaken by the hand, until “clean provender” is

* Tardaque Eleusinae matris volventia plaustra.—*Virg. Georg.* l. 163. These the Delphin annotator supposes to have had wheels *without spokes*. Plaustra quorum rotæ non erant radiatæ, sed instar tympanorum, e solidis tabulis.

† In Devonshire, the hand threshing-instrument is not known by the name of flail. Our vernacular retains the old Saxon word Therscol, by metathesis Threshel, and, as in *Dring for Thring*, the aspirate *th* changed into *d*, makes it dreshel; so *thorpe*, a village, in Saxon, becomes *dorp*, in Dutch. In the Lancashire dialect they have the same word, *Threshel*, (identical with ours,) instead of *flail*.

produced, like that which was "winnowed with the shovel and with the fan"* on the hills of Judæa of old. In this primitive process, the memory of the method of separating the grain from the chaff, so common in our county, forty years ago, (before the introduction of the winnowing machine,) is still preserved.

When we construct our roads of iron, it may be justly said that we live in an iron age. Ploughs, harrows, and drags, wholly of iron, have superseded the timber frame-work of those implements, to a great extent; but the old wooden plough may yet be seen on some farms, little if at all changed in its material parts from that which the Romans might have taught our rude forefathers to use, when they subjected the western angle of the island to their sway, and induced them to become husbandmen, even if they had not been previously brought to add this useful occupation to their more antient one of shepherds and herdsmen. The antiquary, versed in classic lore, will observe with interest, the striking similarity between Virgil's description of the plough, in the reign of Augustus, and that which may still be seen in Devonshire, after a lapse of eighteen centuries.

Continuo in sylvis magna vi flexa domatur
In burim et curvi formam accipit ulmus aratri.
Hinc a stirpe pedes temo protentus in octo,
Binæ aures, duplici aptantur dentalia dorso.
Cæditur et tilia ante jugo levis, altaque fagus,
Stivaque, quæ currus a tergo torqueat imos.

VIR. GEORG. lib. i. 174.

The *buris*, or beam, (though not always made of elm,) has still a slight curvature. The *ear* of the ploughshare, by which the sod is turned off from the furrow,—the *stiva*, handle (or *haul*, vernacular) by which the plough is guided,—and the yoke, (where oxen are employed, as is still often the case in Devonshire,) formed of the light alder, instead of the lime, or linden tree, which is not so common

* Is. xxxii. 24. Our winnowing sieve answers to the shovel here mentioned, and to the fan, (MATT. iii. 12,) which, as Shaw (quoted by BURDER,—*Oriental Customs*, vol. iv., p. 298) observes, is too cumbersome a machine to be thought of, for it is represented as being carried in the hand, (whose fan is in his hand.) Burder further remarks, that "the word *πτύον*, from *πτύω* to *spit*, *spit out*, properly signifies a shovel, whence corn is thrown or spit out as it were, against the wind, to separate it from the chaff. That this is the true sense of the word, and not a fan, or van, is evident from HOMER, *Il.* xiii. v. 588, where *πτύον* is used in the same sense and connexion."

with us, as in Italy,—all exhibit a remarkable accordance with Virgil's description, and prove the tenacity with which antient usages maintain their ground among the sons of the soil. The goad, still in use for guiding, and urging on a yoke of oxen, carries us back even to more remote periods still, although the weapon which Shamgar* wielded with such deadly effect against the Philistines, must have been of a more formidable description than those used by our ploughboys, to incite the slow but patient ox to his useful toil. It would appear, from observations made by travellers in the east, that the antient ox-goad combined in one instrument, the goad properly so called, used by the ploughboy in driving the oxen, and the implement known to our husbandmen, as the *paddle* shovel, for removing the mould which clogs the ploughshare and coulter. The observations of one of our older travellers, so satisfactorily illustrate the passage above cited from Holy Writ, and so directly connect our old-fashioned husbandry with the practice of eastern nations, tenaciously perpetuated from the earliest ages, as to become peculiarly interesting. "It is observable," says Mr. Maundrell, "that in ploughing, they use goads† of an extraordinary size; upon measuring of several, I found them about eight feet long, and at the bigger end, six inches in circumference. They were armed at the lesser end, with a sharp prickle for driving the oxen, and at the other end with a small spade, or paddle of iron, strong and massy, for cleansing the plough from the clay that encumbers it in working. May we not from hence conjecture, that it was with such a goad as one of these that Shamgar made that prodigious slaughter related of him? I am confident that whoever should see one of these instruments, would judge it to be a weapon not less fit, perhaps fitter, than a sword, for such an execution. Goads of this sort, I saw always used, hereabouts, and also in Syria; and the

* JUDGES iii. 21.

† The goads used by our ploughboys are generally about the same length, with a similar *prickle* fixed in the smaller end of the pole or stick, which, however, is of slighter make, being used only for driving the oxen, while the paddle-shovel stick, (and it is to be noticed that Maundrell uses our provincial term,) would just correspond in size with that which our traveller noticed as still used in the country of the heroic Hebrew, who, like another Tell, roused perhaps by some crowning act of wanton outrage, from his peaceful occupation, to withstand "the fury of the oppressor," found an extemporaneous and efficient weapon (*furor arma ministrat*) in that implement, which, probably, the jealous policy of the Philistines might allow the oppressed Israelites to sharpen, as in the disastrous reign of Saul, "when they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the axes, and to *sharpen the goads*." (1 SAM. xiii. 21.)

reason is, because the same single person both drives the oxen, and also holds, and manages the plough, which makes it necessary to use such a goad as is above described, to avoid the incumbrance of two instruments."

"Not rural sights alone, but rural sounds," as the poet of the country so soothly sings, "delight" those, whose minds are not so absorbed by one particular pursuit as to render them insensible to every other object of interest and gratification. The plaintive strain, or peculiar kind of recitative, which the ploughboy chants to his team, as he directs or urges them onwards, is both "musical and melancholy;" especially when it comes wafted up the hill by the fitful winds of autumn, or the gusty breezes of spring. It is probably a custom of considerable antiquity, and is singularly in keeping with the slow and measured pace and pensive looks of the oxen,—their necks bent earthward by the yoke,—but patient of their toilsome march through the furrows, all the livelong day. A team of four or six fine oxen, forms one of the most pleasing *accidents* of an agricultural landscape; but one looks with almost Levitical repugnance at the ill-assorted combinations which sometimes present themselves, by the harnessing of bullocks in the same team with the horse or the ass.*

While, in the midst of scenes and sounds like these, the valedudinarian may successfully "woo Hygeia on the mountain's brow,"—the artist may richly replenish his sketch-book,—the botanist store his herbarium with specimens of moorland FLORA†,—and the geologist fortify his theories of volcanic protrusion, or aqueous deposits, from phenomena, presented in the abrupt hills and deeply-scoop'd valleys around;—the antiquary, with whose pursuits this work is more immediately concerned, will find himself most advantageously stationed at Chagford, for visiting such monumental relics as the columnar circle, on Scorhill Down,—the tolmen,—the stone avenues, with the Longstone Maen,—the Round Pound, near Castor Rock,—hut circles, on Teigncombe Down,—the rock-basins, on Middletor, and the Puckie Stone, as well as those near Sandypark,—

* Thou shalt not plough with an ox and an ass together. (DEUT. xxii. 10.)

† The bright green and glomuliferous *parmelia*, and the resupinate *nephroma*, will be found on the rocks and trees in the immediate neighbourhood. (See *Appendix*, No. iii.)

the Drewsteignton cromlech,—the Logan Stone, in the Teign, near Whiddon Park,—Cranbrook Castle, on the heights immediately above, and Prestonbury, already described, near Fingle Bridge. All these, and many more antiquarian objects of minor importance, lie within a circle, of which Chagford is the centre, with a radius of not more than three miles, so that a pedestrian may, without difficulty, reach them all, “albeit unus’d,” it may be, to moorland explorations. But many a zealous investigator would not find it a task too arduous, to extend his perambulations (even without the aid of a moor-pony or vehicle) from hence to the Grey Wethers circle, to the circle in Fenworthy new-take, to the pounds on Shelstone hill (p. 71) to Cranmere Pool, or even to the top of Cosdon. Nor let the explorer of our upland wilds be deterred from the excursions thus indicated, by calculating his powers of locomotion from the results of his pedestrian efforts along a muddy lane or a dusty highway. With the springy turf at his feet, and with the mountain air above and around him, he will find his step acquiring unwonted elasticity and vigour, and will be enabled to accomplish, without undue fatigue, over the free and breezy moorlands, a distance which would present a toilsome, if not an impracticable task, in the beaten and confined thoroughfares below. We shall, however, now proceed to visit, in succession, those objects which have not already been noticed; or which, from their importance, demand a more detailed account than has been given in the general description.

Among these, the Drewsteignton cromlech holds a pre-eminent place. It has been noticed above, (p. 33,) that the character and position of the abacus may, probably, be traced in the name of the adjoining farm. But without relying too much on the controverted evidence of etymology, the name of the parish is much more important, since it has been confidently appealed to, as intimately connected with, and directly relating to, the aboriginal relics with which the environs abound. Polwhele’s enthusiasm has led him to regard these relics, viewed in connexion with the name, and with local circumstances, as pointing to the very metropolis of Druidism in the west,—the seat of the regal, or archdruidical court. That such courts existed in countries where the Druidical religion prevailed, there can be no doubt in the minds of those who are acquainted with Cæsar’s

clear and circumstantial account of the nature and extent of the authority exercised by that powerful priesthood in Gaul.* Nor can we hesitate in coming to the conclusion, that similar authority was wielded in Britain, whence, as it has been already observed, the Gauls derived their knowledge of the Druidical system. But whilst the existence of such courts, in Britain, will hardly be disputed, the precise spots where they may have been held must ever remain a subject of pure conjecture. Monumental relics are the only guides in the absence of historic testimony. Presumption, therefore, is in favour of a spot where an unusual congeries of Druidical relics still exists,—and such a spot is certainly found in the immediate neighbourhood of the Drewsteignton cromlech,—where the conditions requisite to make out a case (*prima facie*) are probably less equivocal than in Anglesea, where Rowland and others have traced vestiges of the seat of an Archdruid. Our Devonshire cromlech is incomparably more striking and curious than that at Plas Newydd, on the Menai Strait; nor is that accompanied by such an assemblage of Druidical relics, as enriches the neighbourhood of Drewsteignton. With all due allowance for local predilection, and for the sanguine conclusions of an antiquary, whose wish is confessedly often “father to his thought,” the following observations of Polwhele, with reference to this point, may not be deemed altogether unworthy of consideration. “If we confine ourselves within the limits of Devon and Cornwall, and fix an archidruidical seat in the west, I should imagine that Drewsteignton would be the most eligible spot. The very name of *Drewsteignton* instantly determines its original appropriation to the Druids. And that this ‘*town of the Druids, upon the river Teign,*’ was the favourite resort of the Druids, is evident, from a great variety of Druidical remains in the neighbourhood of the town. * * * The only remaining cromlech in Devonshire,† marks

* Writing of the order of men called Druids, Cæsar shows that their authority extended to the most important questions of litigation, ecclesiastical and secular. If any recusant opposed their decision, the ghostly terrors of excommunication were resorted to, for the purpose of enforcing the sentence of these absolute judges;—nor were the decrees which were issued from the solemn groves of the central Carnutes, less formidable than the interdicts which, in after ages, were fulminated from the Vatican. “Nam fere de omnibus controversiis, publicis privatisque constituunt; et si quod est admissum facinus; si cæde facta; si de hereditate, si de finibus controversia est, idem decernunt; præmia pœnasque constituunt.” CÆSAR, *Bell. Gall.*, lib. vi. 13.

† The only cromlech known to Mr. Polwhele, as existing in Devonshire.

this spot as more peculiarly the seat of the Druids. And the Archdruid, perhaps, could not have chosen a more convenient place for his annual assembly."

After controverting the opinion entertained by Westcote, Risdon, and Prince, that the prefix of Drew is derived from Drogo, who is said to have held lands in the parish, in the reigns of Henry II. and Richard I., Chapple, to whose treatise on the cromlech, reference has been made in the former part of this work, proceeds to trace the origin of the name to the occupancy of the Druids, more than a thousand years before. "As we find it called *Tegn' Dru*, or *Drues-Teignton*, in other antient records, it seems to me most probable it was thus distinguished as having been, before the Roman conquest, the residence of a principal Druid. For that some considerable one governed here, and had great numbers under his command, may fairly be inferred, from this stupendous monument of their labour and skill. * * * And that its present name was formed from Druid's Teignton, has been the opinion of most persons, who have seen its cromlech, and judged it to be a Druidical structure, though uncertain for what purposes it was erected. Hence also Drewston,* the name of a farm there, had probably its origin, having been perhaps once the seat of some Druid or Druids, and as such called by the Saxons Dreos-tun, from some such name of the like signification given it by the Britons. And the like may be observed of another Drewston, situate in the adjoining parish of Chagford, but on the other side of the Teign." †

Should the tourist regard these etymological and antiquarian speculations as of any validity, they will increase the interest with which he will proceed to visit the cromlech and its associated relics. At all events, the veriest sceptic will not feel prepared to pronounce that the Druids never had a judicial station, or educational college, at this particular spot. Who can affirm that this was not the place, or one of the places, to which these Gauls resorted, whose anxiety for a more perfect initiation into the mysteries of Druidical lore, would lead them to Britain, to imbibe draughts of instruction at the

* Drewsteignton is also frequently abbreviated to Drewstone by the country people. It is also sometimes called Teignton, without the prefix.

† Chapple's *Description and Exegesis of the Drewsteignton Cromlech*, p. 30.

fountain-head? * Without however venturing to fix the precise spot, it is scarcely within the bounds of probability that no such establishment existed in or about Dartmoor, where so many Druidical vestiges abound; and if this be granted, I know no situation where, from existing circumstances, it might be sought for with greater promise of success, than in the neighbourhood of the Drewsteignton cromlech, unless the neighbourhood of Wistman's Wood might dispute the claim, and challenge for itself the honours of the *gorseddau* and Druidical college. With what additional interest will the explorer look down from the Puckie Stone upon the oaken groves which overshadow the channel of the Teign, when he thinks that in the same spot, and beneath former generations of similar oaks, the Druid might have celebrated his dark and blood-stained rites, or instructed those who, perhaps, from the remotest parts of Gaul, had repaired hither, to consult the hierophants of their mystic creed! And as he threads his way down the romantic glen, towards Holy-street, a deeper horror will envelope those venerable woods. Association will not fail to enhance the interest of the scene, rich as it is in intrinsic charms. And few spots can boast natural features more striking and lovely, while the works of man, where they interpose, are so harmonious in their character, as to be in perfect keeping with the works of nature. The mill, at Holy-street,—the substantial dwelling-house hard by, with high-pitched roof and gables, mullioned windows and low-brow'd doorways, all of enduring moorstone,—its quaint terraced-garden, trim with ever-green hedges,—its enclosed paved court, with a crystal streamlet running through, to join the river below,—all suggestive of old hereditary occupancy and rural quiet,—and all felicitously harmonizing with the sequestered and sylvan character of the surrounding scenery.

If the opinion of some antiquaries is to be credited, in passing from Holy-street homestead, along the margin of the Teign, we are treading the Via Sacra of the Druids, which, it is conjectured, might have led from hence to the cromlech itself, about two miles distant. The name of Holy-street is too significant to be lightly passed over; and whatever may be said of many other etymological speculations, I believe it is generally held as an established canon in archæology,

* CÆSAR, *Bell. Gall.*, lib. vi. 13.

that the word *street*, applied to roads in different parts of the country, may be regarded as conclusive evidence of the existence of some antient paved highway in or near the spot. Such was probably the road passing along this romantic woodland glen, where it expands into a vale at the foot of the acclivity on which the town of Chagford is built. Whether the Holy-street lane is to be pronounced the *Via Sacra*, or processional road of the Druids, leading (it may be) from the Cromlech to the Tolmen and Sacred Circle, or not,—it would seem impossible to emerge from the narrow lane, (by which we came down from Teigncombe Common, to the south Teign and the Puckie Stone, p. 80,) as it winds by Holy-street house, and pass into the sylvan glade which then opens before you, without feeling that few spots more likely to have been dedicated to the purposes of the Druidical consecrated grove, could be found in the whole island. Even now, the venerable oaks, towering aloft from the grassy floor, strewn with moss-grown rocks, and spreading a deep, religious shade around, can scarcely fail to suggest thoughts of our barbarian forefathers, congregated at the summons of the mighty priesthood, in such a scene as this, “inflaming themselves with idols, among the oaks,” (Is. lvii. 5). But when, in addition to the oaken grove, on the level,—the moss-covered rocks, and the darkly flowing river,—all the surrounding eminences rose thickly garnitured with primæval woods, it seems morally certain, that a scene so characteristic and appropriate, could not have been overlooked by the Druids, in a district where, as we have already seen, such unequivocal traces of their ritual still remain.

We will now proceed along the valley towards Chagford Bridge, since, if there is attention to be given to the etymological inferences drawn from the name of Holy-street, the *Via Sacra* could scarcely have taken any other direction, than that indicated by the course of the river. But before taking a final leave of Holy-street, let me remind those whose predilections may lead them to regard these antiquarian speculations with the indifference, if not with the scornful scepticism, of an Ochiltree, that the features of natural loveliness in this dale, are so manifold and striking, that *they* will not fail to repay the “pilgrims of beauty” for a visit to this sylvan shrine, on the verge of the moorlands, especially if they should make their pilgrimage after the early frosts have tinged the oaken grove with the varied hues of autumn. Nor will the botanist, in his

return from lichen-hunting among the rocks on Teigncombe Common, or the woods in Gidleigh Park, fail to observe, in the clear and rapid mill-leat, by the road side, the luxuriant water plants, mantling the stones deep in the stream,—green as an emerald, and thick and wavy as the tresses of Sabrina's hair, when evoked from her "coral paven bed," by the potent spell of the Miltonian muse.

Having reached Chagford Bridge, we shall find our way along a pathway, on the north bank of the Teign, until we reach Rushford Bridge, where the road from Moreton to Okehampton crosses the river. Turning to the left, at Rushford Barton, we mount the woody ridge, which rises at the back of Sandypark. On the summit we shall find a number of tors and bowlders scattered along a strip of verdant turf, which seems to have given rise to the name of the Bowling-green, by which it is (or was) known among the neighbouring peasantry, while the convivial designation of "the punch bowl" was given to a rock-basin on one of the masses which crest the hill. Descending on the other side, we shall soon regain the road, and after proceeding northwards about a mile, shall reach the cromlech, situated in a small level field adjoining the road which here proceeds eastward to Drewsteignton church-town; from which the cromlech is distant about a mile and a quarter, and from whence it can be most conveniently approached by visitors from the east and north. Chapple describes its situation as "nearly in the middle of the county of Devon, being within two miles and a half of the centre of its circumscribing circle. From which circumstance, by-the-bye," continues this author, "we might infer the fitness of the place for a Druidical assize, supposing (what however we can, at this distance of time, have no certainty of) that the present limits of this county were then also, nearly, the boundaries of a distinct province of Druidical government, in this western part of Britain."*

This venerable monument is popularly known by the name of the Spinsters' Rock; the origin of which appellation is thus accounted for, by the same writer who learnt it as the tradition of the neighbourhood. "The common saying is, that it was erected by three spinsters one morning before their breakfast. These spinsters (though the appellation among lawyers is peculiar to maiden women, but

* CHAPPLE'S *Description and Exegesis of the Drewsteignton Cromlech*, p. 30.

seems to be originally derived from the common employment of young girls in former ages) the inhabitants represent, as having been not only spinsters in the former sense, but also spinners by occupation. For, according to their account, they did it after finishing their usual work, and *going home with their pad*, as the phrase here is, that is carrying home their pad of yarn to the yarn-jobber, to be paid for spinning it. And on their return, observing such heavy materials unapplied to any use, and being strong wenches, (giantesses we may presume, such as Gulliver's Glumdalclitch, or the Blouzes of Patagonia,) as an evidence of their strength and industry, and to shame the men who, either from weakness or laziness, had desisted from the attempt, they jointly undertook this task, and raised the unwieldy stones to the height and position in which they still remain. This is the tale, which they say has been handed down to them from generation to generation."* Nor is the memory of this legendary fable extinct at the present day. Whilst however Mr. Chapple records the tradition, he by no means acquiesces in the derivation of the term, but appends a conjecture of his own, "taking it for granted that the original name of this cromlech was expressive of the use for which it was designed. * * * Why then might not the astronomical Druids give it some Celtic appellation significant of that use; such as *Lle Yspienner rhongca*, (in the British dialect of the Celtic,) the place of the open or hollow observatory? or, possibly, *Yspinddyn Ser rhongca*—the open star-gazing place."

Without venturing to pronounce between the rival claims of these "astronomical Druids" and the stalwart spinsters of traditionary fame, it may be worth while to look a little further into the bearings of the legend. Shrouded under the wild extravagance of the popular fable, there may lie, some mythic notion of antient and wide-spreading prevalence,—or even some historical truth of revelation, however perverted. May we not therefore, possibly, detect in the legend of these three fabulous spinners, the terrible Valkyriur, of the dark mythology of our northern ancestors?† Or if the statement of a

* CHAPPLE'S *Description and Exegesis of the Drewsteignton Cromlech*, p. 99.

† The Fatal Sisters, the choosers of the slain, whose dread office in the wild and gloomy mythology of the Norsemen, to "weave the warp and weave the woof" of Destiny, is thus celebrated in the lyric strains of the English Pindar:—

writer, quoted by Polwhele, be correct, the tradition with regard to the builders of the cromlech varies, and that, in some cases, he found its erection attributed to three young men, instead of young women. "But," continues this writer, commenting upon Mr. Chapple's observations, "the tradition goes farther, and says that not only the three pillars were erected in memory of the three young ones, but that the flat stone which covers them, was placed there in memory of their father, or mother, according as you supposed the young ones to be male or female, and that each of these, both young and old, fetched these stones down from the highest parts of the mountain of Dartmoor, where, for some reason or other, they had thought fit to take up their residence. Perhaps the expression *Lle Y'spinnwr*, which the author seems to think a *spying*, or *surveying* place, might give rise to the idea of spinners, and thus turn them into *three ladies*. But you will, perhaps, guess why I incline to suppose these stones might be erected, among other reasons, in memory of *an old man* and his *three sons*, who descended from an exceeding high mountain, on a certain occasion." *

What was the occasion alluded to by this writer, it is not difficult to divine; and if Druidism is indeed no more than a corruption of a religion, diffused throughout the world in the earliest ages, by the descendants of the three diluvian patriarchs, after the division of the world in the time of Peleg, (GEN. x. 25,) then will this conjecture, as to the legend of the cromlech, be found of more

Glittering lances are the loom,
Where the dusky warp we strain,
Weaving many a soldier's doom,
Orkney's woe and Randver's bane.

See the grisly texture grow,
('Tis of human entrails made,)
And the weights, that play below,
Each a gasping warrior's head.

Shafts, for shuttles, dipt in gore,
Shoot the trembling cords along;
Sword, that once a monarch bore,
Keep the tissue firm and strong.

Mista, black terrific maid,
Sangrida and Hilda, see,
Join the wayward work to aid,—
'Tis the woof of victory.—GRAY.

* POLWHELE'S *Historical View of Devonshire*, p. 79.

importance than might at first appear. This opinion will also derive strength from the fact, that an examination of the situation and circumstances in which the cromlech is placed, has led to the conclusion that there are other relics immediately adjacent to the cromlech, which are strongly indicative of Arkite worship.

The satellites which Polwhele mentions as attending the Drewsteignton cromlech,—“two rows of pillars marking out the processional road of the Druids, and several columnar circles,” and “rock idols at the end of the down, that frown with more than usual majesty,” will now be sought for in vain, even if they ever existed, to the extent described by the author. But on the north side of the road, by which the cromlech field is bounded, there are objects highly worthy of examination, which are generally overlooked, and are probably unknown to many, whose interest is absorbed in the celebrated spinsters’ rock.

Bradford, or Bradmere Pool, is popularly reported to occupy the site of an antient tin mine, a few hundred yards north of the cromlech. With less regularity of outline in its banks, it would approach more closely to the appearance of a mountain tarn, than any piece of water in our western moorlands. It covers an area of about three acres; of a rectangular form, about forty yards wide, and not less than one hundred and eighty long, is said to be seventy-five feet deep, and is surrounded on all sides by trees. On the south side, the bank rises steeply from the brink of the pool, and forms, apparently, the slope of an earthwork, where the vestiges of a ditch or moat can be traced, surrounding a mound of an elliptical form, measuring, on the top, one hundred feet by one hundred and thirty. There seems to have been a provision for draining this piece of water, should occasion require. There are too many indications of regularity and design, to admit of the supposition, that this mound is nothing more than the upcast of an abandoned mine; but if it should be thought that the traces of entrenchment are not sufficiently decisive to warrant its being regarded as having been constructed for the purposes of defence, there is yet another hypothesis, which would assign its erection to the earliest periods of history, and connect it with the artificial formation of the adjoining sheet of water, and the legendary erection of the cromlech as noticed above.

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I have before me the MSS. notes of Col. Hamilton Smith,* on these relics, after a visit to the spot, in which he remarks the appearances which presented themselves to our notice, and records the conclusion to which he had arrived, from a personal inspection. "The sheet of water, or dub, embracing a part of the sacred hill, and probably a sacred grove, having on one side an oblique communication with the water by a gradual ascent, occurs in other places, particularly in two similar monuments of Celtic origin, among the Savern hills and the Vogesian mountains, where altars, sacred inclosures, and consecrated pools of great depth occur as here. Forests surround them, as was no doubt the case also at Shilston. As for the sloping ditch, forming a road, it may have served for the covered coracle, containing the novice in his mystic regeneration, and second birth, to be drawn up from the waters to the mimic Ararat of Gwidd-nau."

"Worship on high places," says Mr. Harcourt, "imitations, or at least memorials of Ararat—was a characteristic feature of the diluvian rites;" and the same author has adduced a number of instances to show, that where natural hills or mountains contiguous to, or peninsulated by, water, did not occur, that the memory of the diluvian mountain would be preserved in artificial mounts and pools, such as Col. Smith supposes those at Shilston to have been; where, as it has been shown, the artificial piece of water, (*Dub*,†) is in immediate connexion with an artificial mound. The reasons for this, he traces to a traditionary recollection of the altar built upon Mount Ararat, by Noah, and to a supposed injunction of that patriarch to his descendants to construct their altars in such situations as would preserve the memory of that awful catastrophe, and that the cause of the deluge was the impiety of mankind. "Thus every high place devoted to religion, would become a sign or emblem of Ararat. * * * All indeed, who retained any reverence for the patriarchal precept, would avoid a long residence upon extensive plains, because it would deprive them of their hill altars. When, therefore, the rebels of

* The high reputation of a gentleman, so profoundly versed in antiquities, ethnology and the physical history of man, as Col. Smith, will not fail to ensure the greatest respect, for any opinion he may advance.

† "*Dub*, in Chaldee, is To flow." *Doct. Del.*, vol. ii., p. 417.

Shinar, in opposition to the Divine will, determined not to be dispersed, their leaders could not devise a more politic plan for keeping them contentedly in the plain, than by building an artificial mountain, to be their place of worship, that the name of the Lord might dwell there.”*

Our author further shows, from a variety of evidence, that “the mountain was honoured first as the throne of the avenging deity, and secondly, as the sanctuary of peace, which was first disclosed by the retiring flood. At the same time,” he continues, “there is distinctly visible an idolatrous disposition to transfer the glory of the Creator to the creature, either to the mountain or the man, which extended itself even to the remotest islands, scattered in the Pacific Ocean, and must therefore be admitted to exhibit, in the strongest light, the indelible permanence of its character, and the antiquity of its origin. Those,” says the missionary Ellis, “who were initiated into the company of Areois, invoked the Mouna Tabu, or sacred mountain; which, it further appears, is exactly like one of the mountains or mounds which were held sacred by the Celts, for it is conical, and situated near a lake, and what is most material to this enquiry, the natives have a tradition which shows, at once, the reason of its being Tabu, or sacred. The Sandwichers,” says the missionary, “believe that the Creator destroyed the earth by an inundation that covered the whole earth except Mouna Roa, in Owhyhee or Hawaii, on the top of which one single pair had the good fortune to save themselves.”†

If, therefore, it should be questioned, whether the evidence of the existence of such a sacred mound and lake,‡ at Bradford Pool, as are above described, is sufficiently conclusive, it must be admitted that the widely-spread tradition of the deluge, in connexion with consecrated mountains, may justly be alleged as an argument in its favour. If the memory of that “overwhelming flood” is preserved at the antipodes, in our own times, it can scarcely be imagined that it had not reached our Celtic ancestors, two or three thousand years ago, by means of their intercourse with the Phœnicians, even if it had not been

* *Doct. Del.*, vol. i., p. 149.

† *Ib.*, vol. i., p. 378.

‡ Among the legends of the neighbourhood, may be mentioned one, which relates, that there is a passage lined with large stones (high enough for a man to walk upright) from this lake to the Teign, near the Logan-stone.

brought hither by aboriginal settlers from the east. In that curious specimen of our antient native literature, the Welsh Triads, we accordingly find an express mention of the deluge, in the account of the bursting forth of the lake, Llion, by which the face of the earth was overwhelmed, and all mankind drowned, with the exception of a single pair, who escaped in a boat, and subsequently repeopled the island of Britain.

The tradition of the deluge, being thus manifestly familiar to the primitive inhabitants of our island, it is far from improbable, that indications of its existence would be found in their religious rites and monumental relics. And if, as some antiquaries contend, cromlechs are Arkite cells, not only is plausibility added to the conjecture, which interprets the legend of the erection of the Drewsteignton cromlech, by three young men and their father, who came down from the heights of Dartmoor, as originating in an obscured and perverted tradition of Noah and his three sons,—but the probability of an Arkite character pervading the accompanying archæological relics, is increased in proportion.

Leaving these interesting speculations, we shall now proceed eastward, by the Drewsteignton road, to Stone Cross, the origin of which appellation we shall have no difficulty in tracing to the far-famed cromlech. Turning out of that road, at the cross, we shall take the right hand lane, and passing by Stone Farm and Parford, shall reach Sandypark, at the crossing of the roads to Okehampton and Moreton, Chagford and Exeter. Here, at the wayside inn, the stranger may obtain directions for finding his way to the Logan-stone, should the route now indicated, be insufficient for that purpose, which, however, will scarcely be the case. The Moreton road from Sandypark will lead us directly to the bridge over the Teign, within a furlong from the inn. We shall not cross the bridge, but shall follow a beaten path on the left, down the river, along the northern bank. Following the course of the stream, as it winds through the meadows, we shall soon reach that point, where a rock-crested headland rises abruptly above the little lateral vale of Coombe, on one side, and the wooded steeps of Whiddon Park press forward to narrow the valley on the other. Scarcely a quarter of a mile from this point, by keeping close to the river's brink, on the north side, we shall discover the Logan-stone, already referred to in the general

description, (p. 26.) Should the explorer inadvertently follow a more accessible track, which winds along the side of the hill, at a short distance above the river, he may pass the Logan-stone without noticing it, among the numerous masses of granite, with which the channel of the Teign is profusely strewn; but by making his own path close to the brink, he will not fail to find the object of his search, rising boldly out of the bed of the river near the northern bank. It is an irregular pentagonal mass, the sides of which are of the following dimensions. Eastern, five feet four inches in width; northern, seven feet eight; north-west, six feet four; south-east, five feet four; and the southern, towards the river, ten feet six. It is about seven feet and a half in height at the western corner. This huge mass rests on a single rock, and still *loggs* perceptibly, but very slightly, by the application of one man's strength, but the motion must have been much greater in former times, especially in those early ages when probably its nicely-adjusted equipoise was rendered subservient to the purposes of Druidical delusion.

Proceeding down the river, we shall be greeted with some of the most striking vale scenery in the west of England. The course is a continuous succession of graceful curves; the banks, on the south, or Moreton side, clothed with wood and heather, as high as the eye can reach, and on the Drewsteignton slope presenting abrupt and bare declivities, occasionally interspersed with craggy projections, beetling above our rugged but romantic pathway. In one particular spot, high in the abrupt declivity, two bold cliffs will be observed, jutting out from the hill, like the ramparts of a redoubt, guarding the narrow pass below. Lower down, the northern bank becomes wooded, and the path, proceeding through a tangled copse, at length emerges upon the Drewsteignton and Moreton road at Fingle* Bridge. Here let us pause on its narrow roadway—just wide enough for a single cart—to gaze from its grey moorstone parapet, on a scene, the general features of which may be recorded by the pen, but of whose particular features of loveliness, the pencil alone can convey an adequate idea. Three deeply-scooped valleys, converging

* Some topographers, misled by sound, or anxious to impart an Ossianic character to the spot, have spelt this word—Fingal. Mr. Shortt derives Fingle from FYN, Cornish, a boundary, and GELLI, hazel. But *oak* is the characteristic tree of this moorland boundary, and not *hazel*. May not *gill*, the well-known designation of a waterfall, among the Cumbrian Celts, form part of the original word, which would then be Fingill?

to one point,—two or three little stripes of greenest meadow-sward, occupying all the narrow level at the foot of the encircling hills,—the fortified headland of Prestonbury, rising bold and precipitous, its rigid angular outline strikingly contrasted with the graceful undulations of the woody slopes which confront its southern glacis,—the mill at their base embowered in foliage, and the river, clear and vigorous, giving animation to the scene, without marring its sylvan seclusion,—all combine to form a scene of surpassing loveliness, which it is a disgrace for any Devonians not to have visited, before they set out in search of the picturesque, to Wales or Cumberland, or the Highlands, and, still more, before they make their continental peregrinations,

Or by the lazy Scheldt or wandering Po,
Or onward, where the rude Carinthian boor
Against the houseless stranger, shuts his door.

Proceeding from Fingle Bridge, we shall now mount the adjacent hill towards Moreton, by a steep mountain road, at whose narrowness and ruggedness we shall not for one moment repine, since it retains enough of primitive simplicity, and freedom from modern improvement, to make the supposition perfectly credible, that it is the identical track, by which our aboriginal forefathers maintained a communication between Prestonbury fort and the champaign country beyond, and Cranbrook Castle on the crown of the hill above, and the moorlands of the interior. So steep is the ascent, that it can only be accomplished by a succession of zigzags; and these, at the several angles, present the most favourable points for commanding the romantic scenery of the vale of the Teign below. At one of these elbows, about half a mile up the hill, the view is so striking that it would amply repay those who, perhaps, generally content themselves with the more accessible beauties of Fingle Bridge, for the trouble of the ascent. The road passes through oak copse, which shuts out all but glimpses of the surrounding scenery, until you reach this point, when a scene of singular loveliness bursts upon the sight. We look down upon the wooded glen through which the Teign winds his devious course from Chagford to Fingle Bridge. Five projections of hills fold in behind one another; the last, on the right hand bank, being the craggy ridge above the Logan-stone, and on the left, the wooded declivity of Whiddon Park. Imagine the morning

to be still, and partially overcast, (and to be seen in perfection, we should reach our point before the sun has passed the meridian), such a sky as we often have in August and September, when the "lazy clouds," pacing slowly along, throw one part of the landscape into dark shadow, while the other remains in uninterrupted sunshine. The narrow vale of the Teign, seen from this spot, thus enveloped in shade, seems to sink deeper down in gloom and pleasing mystery. Beyond its western gorge, in the middle distance, cornfields, pastures, groves, cottages, and farmsteads, are glowing beneath the sunbeams in distinct and characteristic colour, while Cosdon, from these peculiar "skiey influences," borrows more than his natural elevation, and towers, in purple majesty, high in the distant west.

At the angle of the next zigzag, we look down upon Prestonbury, and enjoy a favourable opportunity for obtaining a bird's eye view of the fortifications of this remarkable headland; and shall be better able to estimate the wisdom of our British ancestors in fortifying this important position; which, as it has been already observed, seems intended to command a border pass, from the champaign country, north and east, by the ford, or bridge, (which, probably of Cyclopean construction, existed even in the earliest ages,) into the moorland district, then the favourite habitation of the hardy Danmonian Britons.

Emerging from the copse, the road still winds upward through a common, richly embroidered with the purple heather, golden furze, and green whortle. Arrived at the top, a grass path turns off from the beaten road over the common to the left, by following which, we shall soon find ourselves within the area of another of these hill-forts, of which there was an evident chain guarding the moorland frontier. Cranbrook Castle occupies the highest ground of all the neighbouring forts; and whilst it would be chosen for the purposes of defence, it seems impossible to observe how it commands the whole of the vale of Chagford, the country round Drewsteignton, together with a vast tract of Dartmoor, south and west, and a considerable extent in north and east Devon, without concluding that it would be also used as a *speculum*, or watch-tower, and that an alarm would be often given from this height by the kindling of the beacon-fire.

Mr. Shortt describes Cranbrook Castle as "consisting of a vallum, or agger of moorstone, without cement, about seven acres in

extent." Lysons mentions it "as an irregular encampment, containing about six or seven acres, with a double ditch on the south, a single ditch on the west, and none on the north and east." On measuring it, in 1840, I found it six hundred and sixty-six paces within the rampart, the inner slope of which, on the south side, was then about twenty-one feet, the outer, forty-two feet in height. It is quite clear that the north side (towards the deep vale of the Teign) was never so strongly fortified, as the southern and western sides, where the hill is much more accessible. No one can visit this interesting monument of antient days, without grieving to observe the wanton spoliation to which it has been exposed by reckless ignorance and parochial parsimony. We perceive, with indignation and regret, that the rampart has been resorted to (and that in a country where stone is found at every step in redundant profusion) as a convenient quarry for road material. In one spot, on the west, I found the vallum, or rampart, had been dug up to the very foundations. My lamented friend, and antiquarian coadjutor,* who visited it in 1832, first called attention to this gratuitous spoliation, and, in 1840, Mr. Shortt brought it under the notice of the late Col. Fulford, whose regard for the venerable relics of antiquity, I rejoice to say, immediately led to securing this interesting relic from total destruction. Mr. Shortt, in his *Collectanea Curiosa*, gives the following account:—"The composition of the vallum, or agger, is chiefly moorstone, loosely piled together, of no great height, in some parts grauwacke, or shillet. Part of both have been broken into small fragments, as material for the adjacent roads, and ready for removal. I took the first opportunity of remonstrating, in the proper quarter, against this Vandalic piece of profanation, which is of a piece with that which, in other parts of the kingdom, has fast obliterated the traces of many noble and venerable works of antiquity, * * * and hope to save the noble camp from future devastation by the mediation of a trustee of the property, the public-spirited representative of the antient house of Fulford." "The agger of granite, at Cranbrook, may have been British," continues Mr. Shortt, "and the shape on the north-east and south-east, which is not entirely circular, may perhaps lead some to suppose it was an *æstivum*, or summer camp of the

* Mr. Henry Woollcombe, late of Plymouth.

Romans.”* But Mr. Woolcombe, whose valuable MSS., containing the results of his examination of more than fourscore of these antient hill-forts in Devon, I have now before me, unhesitatingly pronounces it to have been a British settlement.

“Cranbrook Castle, near Moreton, is situated in that parish. I have twice visited it, the last time in 1832. It is constructed on the brow of a hill above the Teign river, commanding most extensive views on every side; to the north, seeing hills, which, I conclude, must be in the neighbourhood of Barnstaple, Coddon Hill, and that range; to the south, seeing the barrier of Dartmoor. On this side, Cosdon is magnificent; and many tors adorn the scene, especially Heytor, in the south-east quarter. Towards Exeter, the view is uncommonly rich, as it is likewise westward, though not equally so. This castle is evidently the remains of a British town of large dimensions, being surrounded by a single rampart only, and one † ditch on the outside. The vallum has been composed of stones principally, but many have been dug up to make fences, yet still enough remains to attest the antiquity of the structure.”

Returning by a grassy path to the Moreton road, we shall soon reach a weather-beaten granite guide-post, at a crossway. Turning to the right, we shall follow the old Exeter and Chagford road, down the hill, as it skirts Whiddon Park, and thus completing our circuit, return to Chagford, to prepare for our next excursion.

Having mounted the hill immediately above the town, and examined the rock-basins on Middledown, we shall proceed by the Tavistock Road, towards the moor, in the direction of Jesson. Near this place the road passes through a moor-gate, where the place of gate-posts is supplied by two natural masses of granite rock. On the top of that on the right, are three rock-basins, one of which, is very perfect, and well defined. On the opposite rock, there are some cavities, evidently of natural formation, presenting a marked contrast to the artificial appearance of the former.

Pursuing our course in a westerly direction, we shall enter upon the commons, towards Broadmoor mires and Bushdown Heath, one of the spots where a few grouse still find shelter in the heathery

* SHORTT'S *Collectanea Curiosa*, p. 26.

† On revisiting Cranbrook, in 1840, Mr. Woolcombe made a more particular examination of the ditch and found it double, on the south, as above stated.

cover. Here the hills begin to swell boldly from the lowlands, and numerous springs trickle from the bogs, to render their tribute to the neighbouring Teign. The scene which here presents itself, might have formed the original of the moorland border picture, so graphically sketched by the truthful pencil of Scott. "A few birches and oaks still feathered the narrow ravine, or occupied, in dwarf clusters, the hollow plains of the moor. But these were gradually disappearing, and a wide and waste country lay before them, swelling into bare hills of dark heath, intersected by deep gullies, being the passages by which torrents forced their currents in winter; and, during summer, the disproportionate channels for diminished rivulets, that winded their puny way among heaps of stone and gravel, the effects and tokens of their wintry fury, like so many spendthrifts, dwindled down by the consequences of former excesses and extravagance." *

Many of these streams, such as Shute Lake, are tributaries of the South Teign, towards which we shall now bend our course for the sake of visiting the Grey Wethers, by this route, should the tourist prefer it, to the excursion along the North Teign, already pointed out, (p. 77.) Passing between Loughten Tor on the left, and Fenworthy on the right, we shall follow the principal stream of the South Teign, in a westerly direction; and having traced it to its source, within a mile of Sittaford Tor, shall be in a position to command a full view of these remarkable circles. Seen from this spot, we shall readily trace the popular designation to the appearance, which at a distance these time-worn masses would present to the moorland shepherds, of a flock of sheep, pasturing on the common. But the more poetic eye, will rather here realize the image of a group of overthrown Titans, as "bodied forth" by the bard, who might almost be supposed to have sketched, on this spot, the grand and gloomy imagery of one of the most striking scenes of his Hyperion—

One here, one there,
Lay, vast and edgeways, like a dismal cirque,
Of Druid stones, upon a forlorn moor
When the chill rain begins at shut of eve
In dull November, and their chancel-vault;
The heav'n itself, is blinded throughout night.—KEATS.

* *Old Mortality.*

These circles have been already sufficiently described, (p. 77,) nor should we find anything at Sittaford Tor sufficiently attractive to induce us to extend our excursion in that direction. We shall therefore retrace our steps along the eastern bank of the South Teign. Here the moormen will point out to us the dark green spikes of the sparrow grass, which they affirm to be of the most deleterious quality, if eaten by bullocks before Midsummer, but perfectly harmless and nutritious for cattle, after that season of the year. Continuing by a moorland cart-track, in the same direction, we shall soon pass Mevil, near which is the moor-gate bounding the parishes of Lydford and Chagford. Following this track, with the Teign on the left, flowing below Thornworthy Tor, we shall cross Tawton Common, where are some faint vestiges of tracklines and a hut-circle of the ordinary description, about thirty feet in diameter. From hence we may vary our route by following the lane nearest to the Teign, through Gully Hole, instead of taking the road which passes immediately below Middledown to Chagford.

Bidding farewell to Chagford, we shall proceed by the high road to Moreton Hampstead, our next station, passing Wick Green—a name in which will probably be traced vestiges of an antient *Vicus*—and Drewston,* the place referred to by Chapple, (quoted above,) as indicating, together with Drewsteignton, the former haunts of the Druids. In Moreton, we shall find excellent accommodation at the White Hart, where tourists, who may require post-horses or chaise, can be accommodated with both steed and vehicle, as this town is situated on the turnpike road from Exeter to Plymouth and Tavistock, and is the market and post-town of a considerable district. In the situation of Moreton, and the objects by which it is surrounded, we shall not fail to observe evidence sufficient to convince us that the true orthography of the name is Moortown, and to none of our border-towns could that appellation be so properly applied, encompassed as it is by a noble amphitheatre of hills and moorlands, at a greater or less distance, in every direction. Moreton is a clean-looking, cheerful little town, built on a gently rising knoll. The streets are irregular, and many of the houses are of that antient and

* Fosbroke derives the similar name of Drewson, a village in Pembrokeshire, from a Druidical circle formerly there. *Ency. Antig.*, 508.

substantial character, which marks the neighbourhood of the moor. The sunken cross, leaning against an old pollard elm, in the principal street,—the open arcade of circular-headed arches (a relic of the early part of the seventeenth century) in front of the old poor-house, and the church, with its lofty granite tower, will all be noticed, as characteristic and interesting features in the scene. From the brow of the knoll, on which the church is built, one can scarcely look forth on the surrounding eminences without being forcibly reminded of the hills which stand round about Jerusalem, as beautifully described by the sacred lyrist in PSALM CXXV. And while our thoughts are thus directed to HIM, whose omnipresent power stands round about his people, the rock-idol, which rises darkling from yonder rugged steep, and Heytor, with its rock-basins, looming huge and grand in the southern horizon, carries the thoughts back to “the vanities” of our heathen forefathers, and to the sad spectacles which their blood-stained altars presented, in contrast with the pure and peaceful shrines of our Christian England, consecrated to the service of “the True God and JESUS CHRIST whom he hath sent.” Let us now proceed to examine these and other relics, which can be conveniently visited from Moreton as a central point.

Taking a northward direction, the ground we traverse will be adjacent to that which we passed, in our excursion to Cranbrook Castle. Leaving the town by the old road to Exeter, we shall mount a steep ascent, and, at about the distance of a mile and a half, shall diverge to the right, across the common, to examine the antiquarian relics on Mardon Down. But before leaving the road, let us pause to cast a glance at the landscape which stretches away to the south, as we shall never see Heytor, to greater advantage than from this point. The view of Moreton and the surrounding country is also very interesting. Mounting the northern slope of Mardon, we shall notice some aboriginal relics. Among these, the most conspicuous is a circle, thirty yards in circumference, with nine stones remaining erect in their original position, one of which stands two feet and a half above the surface, and is of similar form with the jambs of hut-circles, in other parts. The collection of small stones in the area, would rather convey the notion of a dilapidated cairn, from which the greater part of the stones had been removed. Near the circle are some tracklines, two of which intersect each other. Mounting

the hill and bearing towards the south, in search of the Giant's Grave,* as laid down in the Ordnance Map, on the S.E. side of Mardon, we shall notice the remains of a cairn, which seems to be the relic so designated, but which presents no appearance worthy of particular remark. Turning northwards again, and following a moorland track over the common, we shall leave Buttern Down high on the left, and return by the old road from Moreton to Clifford Bridge, passing Pinmoor (more correctly perhaps *Penmoor*) in our way to Wooston Castle. Near a finger-post, where a road branches off to Chagford in the direction of Cranbrook Castle, we shall diverge to the left over a common overgrown with heath and furze, which slopes northwards, in the direction of the Teign. The ground has evidently been much disturbed, and it is traditionally reported in the neighbourhood that the appearances here presented are vestiges of antient mining operations, but some of them look much more like fortifications, in connexion probably with Wooston Castle, which we shall now proceed to examine, as it is immediately in front, rising boldly above the wooded glen of the Teign.

Wooston Castle is by far the most curious and interesting specimen of antient castrametation, in the whole of our moorland region. Mr. Shortt pronounces it to be a British camp, and justly conjectures it, with Cranbrook and Prestonbury, to "have been one of a chain of forts on the Teign." The camp itself is an earthwork of an irregular oval form, but there are subsidiary entrenchments and other works, in immediate connexion with it, of an exceedingly interesting description. The site itself is worthy of remark, as occupying much lower ground than the hill which rises immediately behind it, on the south. But with relation to the valley of the Teign, it rises high above a precipitous, wooded cliff. It would appear, therefore, that the greatest danger was apprehended from the north, where, probably, in the lowlands, tribes of different manners and hostile dispositions were seated, against whose incursions the Danmonian highlanders found it necessary to guard their frontier.

* "Mardon," says Mr. Shortt, "which boasts of the giant's cairn, or grave, but the *tumulus* of the giant was unfortunately stripped of its granite to repair the roads, and the place of sepulture was nearly obliterated in consequence." *SHORTT'S Collect.*, p. 28. The Rev. W. Ponsford, the Rector of Drewsteignton, gives a similar account of the removal of the materials of some tumuli, on Mardon, for the repair of the roads; and one of those is, in all probability, the cairn above mentioned, known traditionally as the Giant's Grave.

The camp occupies a platform, or ledge, on the side of the furzy hill above described. On the north and west sides, the rampart follows, for the most part, the natural outline of the ground, which sinks deeply down towards the river. The rampart, or vallum, is accordingly very inconsiderable, where the ground itself rendered the camp impregnable. On the north, west, and part of the east side, the rampart is unprovided with a fosse, but on the southern side there is a deep ditch, and a rampart at least ten or twelve yards in average height, from the bottom of the trench to the crest of the vallum. In 1840, I traced the line of circumvallation on the south and west sides very distinctly, to an extent of two hundred and forty yards. Mr. H. Woollcombe, who visited Wooston in the same year, gives the following description of the subsidiary earthworks. "About two hundred feet up the hill, towards the south, where the castle was very defenceless, another considerable rampart was made, with a deep ditch on the outer side. On the eastern side of the castle, and immediately communicating with it, is a covered way, which descends to the river, and might afford shelter, for access to the fortress. But from whence it communicates with the camp, it proceeds up the hill for some distance beyond the second rampart, and terminates in a mound,* which, apparently, may have been used as a fire-beacon, as from hence may be seen Prestonbury and Cranbrook Castle on one side, and Holcombe and Perridge† on the other, and an immense extent to the northward. Higher up the hill, adjoining the road to Moreton, another piece of rampart occurs, totally unconnected with the castle. This has much the appearance of the banks raised by the Romans for their roads, but it is an isolated piece, which I could trace no further; it is true the ground adjoining is cultivated, and, therefore, its continuation may have been obliterated."‡ Mr. Woollcombe's notion of the fire-beacon on the south, in connexion with the principal work, removes a difficulty which occurred to my mind, when I observed that from the castle itself, so few of the neighbouring hill-forts could be seen. Neither Cranbrook nor Cotley are

* A deep trackway, or ditch, appears to lead into the work from the upper part of the hill, and there is besides a small crescent-shaped redoubt, or outwork, above the camp, and facing to the west. *SHORTT'S Collect.*, p. 28.

† Better known by the name of Cotley, on the crown of a conical hill, in the N.E. corner of the parish of Dunsford, commanding a fine view of Exeter and the vale of the Teign. I find that the adjoining field is still called Castle Field.

‡ WOOLLCOMBE'S *Fortified Hills in Devon*, MSS.

in view from that point, but since these and others can be commanded from some spot within the entrenchment, the choice of this situation for a fortified post is more intelligible; yet should we be far from concluding that a work of such extent was ever constructed for the purposes of a beacon only, as appears to have been sometimes supposed, from Mr. Shortt's pertinent remarks on the subject. "The shape and defensive lines of Wooston, and its adjacent colossal brethren, must put an end to the hypothesis of their being mere beacons, on which no such labour was needed to be lavished; nor were they the *Gorseddau*, or British Courts, seats of judgment, and *Gorseddadleu*, convened in the open air, on the tops of hills, for the same ostensible reason, any more than astronomical observatories of Druidism."

Taking advantage of the covered way, above described by Mr. Woolcombe, by which our ancestors resorted to the river, for water or other purposes; at the interval of twenty centuries, we shall follow their footsteps through brakes and thickets, down to the south bank of the Teign, where it forms a sharp bend immediately beneath the natural glacis of the castle. From hence we shall make our way, by a beaten path,—where occasional difficulties will scarcely do more than increase the interest of the walk, along this sequestered dell,—until we reach Clifford Bridge, where the old road from Moreton and Chagford passes eastward to Exeter and Crediton.

The scenery here, though not so bold and romantic as at Fingle, is varied, pleasing, and characteristic. The river glides away in a graceful sweep below thickly-wooded acclivities on the right bank towards Dunsford. The country, on the eastern side, though inclosed and cultivated, rises scarcely less boldly, and from several points commands highly-interesting views of the course of the Teign, as it flows down through its woodland gorge from the western moorlands. Prestonbury, with its bold angular headland, scarped down to the river's brink, forms a prominent object, in front of the deep, wooded glen beyond, while the giant bulk of Cosdon shuts in the scene, in the distant west.

Crossing Clifford Bridge, we shall diverge from the Moreton road, and follow a pleasing rural lane on the right hand, which, at first, skirts along the eastern bank of the river, but soon striking into the inclosed country, leads us through the charmingly situated village

of Dunsford, to Dunsford Bridge, where the features of natural beauty, though of similar character, are more striking than those at Clifford. We now find ourselves on the direct road from Exeter to Moreton, and as we mount the hill, looking down a precipitous slope to the river on the right, shall notice the peculiar characteristics of the scenery of the Upper Teign, in the steep cliffy banks of reddish gray rock, shouldering back the course of the river,—the protruding banks being bare and rocky, and the corresponding recessions on the opposite side, being, for the most part, woody. These characteristics prevail along the course of the Teign, in a greater or less degree, from Whiddon Park to Dunsford Bridge. Many patches of the shelving bank on the north side, studded with groups of low brushwood, with the gray debris of the rock scattered between, will recall (on a small scale) the appearance of Fairfield Hill, above Rydal Mount, Westmorland, as seen from the top of Loughrigg, on the opposite side of Rydal Water.

Still following the turnpike, we shall observe a wild brow rising on the left above the road, called Woodhill, where huge boulder masses project from among the furze and heather; the first characteristic and unequivocal indications of our approach to the great granitic district of Devon from the east. We shall continue to follow the road, until we reach the top of the hill, at the crossway, where a finger-post points out a road to Crediton on the right, and a lane, on the left, leads to Blackystone. By taking the latter road, and proceeding eastward, we shall soon discern this remarkable tor, rising in sombre majesty from the common. It consists principally of two huge masses of natural rock, the upper, crowning its colossal supporter with an immense granite cap. This tor, like its twin-brother, Whitestone, (or Heltor, as it is more generally called,) forms a conspicuous object to the whole country round, and as far south as the mail road, near Bickington, it may be seen peering over the edge of Peppern Down. Leaving Blackystone, by the road which winds round its base, we shall proceed somewhat to the north, and, at about the distance of a mile, shall reach Heltor, which occupies a more commanding position than even Blackystone, as the hill on which it stands, rises abruptly from the vale of the Teign. Hence it is discernible from a greater distance to the north and east, than its giant brother is to the south. Viewed from Dunsford and the

immediate neighbourhood, it wears the appearance of some antient castle-keep, draped with ivy, and built to defend the pass below. On a closer examination, it is found to consist of two distinct, but closely adjacent piles, on the top of which are rock-basins; three on the northern pile and three on the southern. One of these is considerably larger than the others. They are all of irregular forms; the larger about three feet in diameter. Thus, on the eastern confines of the moor, Heltor and Blackystone are stationed, at the gates of the wilderness, the Teign, which flows hard by, forming the natural boundary of the Dartmoor district; and the former of these remarkable tors, rises, as we have seen, immediately above the southern bank of that river.

Heltor stands about a mile north of Bridford Church. Proceeding to that village, and going along the road to Exeter, about a quarter of a mile, we shall observe in a field, on the right, adjoining the lane, a conglomeration of stones, looking like the remains of a dilapidated cairn. In this heap of small stones, two tabular masses, appearing originally to have formed the side stones of a large kistvaen, are placed in a parallel position; the largest, six feet wide, three feet above the surface, and about eighteen inches in average thickness.

Proceeding southward from Bridford, we shall mount the hill which rises in front of the village, to visit Skat Tor, remarkable for its singular conformation. The south front is graduated into a series of rude seats, or steps, leading to a broad platform, on which is placed a mass of rock, with a smaller one at the side, as if it might have been the result of art. I do not find that Skat Tor ever enjoyed the reputation of a logan-stone; but if so, this curious appearance would, in all probability, be satisfactorily explained. Skat Tor occupies a commanding situation above the vale of the Teign, between Bridford and Christow.

Retracing our steps by Blackystone to the Moreton turnpike, we shall pass near a farm, called Moor Barton, in the parish of Moreton, where, at no distant time, there existed a cairn,* which was destroyed by the occupier, in carrying into effect some agricultural improve-

* Mr. Shortt thus describes the cairn, and the interesting relics found there when it was opened. The tumulus was "nine landyards round, in which a sort of rude kistvaen, of six great stones, was found, with a spear-head of copper, the two pegs, or screws, which fastened it to its staff; a glass British bead, and a small amulet of soft stone—memorials of some chief,—calcined bones, ashes, &c." *SHORTT'S Collect.*, p. 29.

ments on the estate. The spear-head, glass bead, &c., which were taken from the kistvaen, were, for some time, in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Carrington, late vicar of Bridford, and are important in the chain of evidence by which the occupancy of this part of the island in remote ages is established.

Following the turnpike, as it winds down the hill towards Moreton, one of the finest of our moorland border landscapes expands before us. The greater portion of the amphitheatre, which sweeps round the town, is seen from a most favourable point of view. The huge dorsal ridge of Hamildon, stretches far across the western horizon, while along the Bovey Vale, southward, the eye looks down a long-drawn vista, where the picturesque forms of the ground, and the rich variety of foliage, irresistibly attract the attention, and make us resolve to obtain a nearer view of the individual features of this charming scene, assured that they will lose nothing of their attractions on a closer inspection.

Our next excursion will therefore lead us by the Bovey and Newton road to Lustleigh, which we shall reach, (within five miles,) by diverging to the right. Lustleigh Church is placed on the pleasant slope of one of our deepest Devonshire *coombs*,* where the most pleasing features of village scenery are happily combined, whilst not a single uncongenial object intrudes to mar the *keeping* of the harmonious whole. A clear vigorous stream, ripples cheerily down the dell,—to turn the busy mill at the end of the hamlet; graceful shelving acclivities partitioned by varied foliage into green crofts, or blooming garden grounds, substantial farm-steads, and whitewashed cottages peep from among the orchards or are nestled under sheltering trees. Boulder rocks, with thickets and copse interspersed, protrude from the soil, on the higher ground, while the far-famed Lustleigh Cleave, with its granite barrier, fences in the vale from the storms of the neighbouring moor. The combination of rural scenery of this particular class, thus presented in this sequestered spot, is certainly not surpassed, if equalled, in any other part of Devonshire.

Passing from the church up a steep bridle-road, to a nearer examination of the Cleave, we shall find it to be a genuine moorland

* Coomb, or combe, from the Anglo-Saxon *Coomb*, a low valley. This term is peculiarly descriptive of the curved hollows which are scooped out on the sides of our Devonshire hills, especially in the sandstone formation.

Clatter, where, amidst the wilderness of granite masses, it will be difficult to detect the particular block, which is said to be a logan-stone, but where many are so placed that they might be easily made to *logg*; and some may have thus moved, without strictly claiming the honour of the antient logan. But if we should fail in identifying any Druidical relic in this rocky labyrinth, the smiling coomb of Lustleigh below, contrasted with the stern magnificence of the moorland heights above, will abundantly repay the trouble of the explorer; and some will think the picturesque masses of rock, with shrubs and foliage springing up from their fissures, in the evergreen crofts of the little hamlet of Hammerslake just below, are more worthy of notice and admiration than the more conspicuous and celebrated Cleave itself.

Returning through Lustleigh, to the turnpike-road, we shall leave it at a place called Slade, where a lane on the left mounts the hill eastward. On reaching the hill, by turning to the right, and proceeding along the crest of the eminence, we shall reach Bottor Rock, a conspicuous tor,* at the extremity of the headland, which rises above the valley of the Teign and Bovey Heathfield.† The huge block on the highest part of the tor has been supposed, to have been worshipped as a rock-idol. Some vestiges of antient remains have been discovered in the immediate vicinity.‡ From this point which presents a noble panorama of varied interest, bounded by Haldon, the heights of Dartmoor and the coast, we shall bid farewell to the Teign, which has so long been the companion of our wanderings. We shall mark its course along the deep vale on the left, with the pleasant town of Chudleigh, and its characteristic cliff, on the eastern bank. Below

* Bottor may be easily visited from Chudleigh, from which it is scarcely three miles distant.

† Bottor, near Hennock, has oak trees growing in its clefts, and at its feet are hollows, like caverns, lined with *byssus aurea*, which according to De Luc, at particular spots, and in certain lights, displays a very glittering appearance, of a greenish hue. *Notes to CARRINGTON'S Dartmoor.*

‡ Mr. W. C. Radley of Newton Abbot, in a communication inserted in Woolmer's Exeter Gazette, Nov. 1841, records the following appearances at Bottor. "About three hundred yards S.W., in a large field called Brady Park, two rock-circles, concentric, one within the other, may still, in part, be seen, the one, measuring from the centre of the inner circle on either hand, thirty-eight feet and a half, to the verge of the outer circle, gives a diameter of seventy-seven feet, divided thus: outer wall four feet thick, then a circular space eighteen feet wide to the inner circle. The second wall is four and a half to five feet in thickness, and the diameter of the area within is twenty-four feet. It had been hollowed out to a lower depth than the surrounding ground. Both walls are neatly formed without cement, of rough unchiseled blocks of sienitic rock, the smooth faces being placed within, and without having the central part filled up with the smaller fragments, as stone walls are at present made."

Chudleigh Bridge, it sweeps in front of the stately groves of Ugbrook Park, and loses the character of a moorland stream. Leaving the narrow vales and deep glens through which it has hitherto pursued its devious way, it now enters upon the wide alluvial plains of Teigngrace and Kingsteignton, and through meadow, copse and pasture, meanders, in gentler mood, along a gravelly channel to its estuary at Teignmouth.

Leaving with reluctance this pleasing scene of alternate softness and grandeur, and descending the hill by another lane, with the church-town of Bovey Tracey on the left, we shall cross the valley to the banks of its neighbouring tributary stream, by some called the West Teign, but described by Risdon as the Bovey. Here we shall strike upon a road skirting the common below Yarnour Wood, and following the direction of a guide-post pointing to Manaton, shall proceed to Becky Fall,*—a considerable cascade on the Hayne, a branch of the Bovey river, which we shall find by turning out of the road on the left, and repairing to the stream in the wood nearly opposite to Lustleigh Cleave, about a mile from Manaton. When the river is not diminished by summer droughts, nor impoverished to furnish water-power for some adjacent works, it rolls down in a fine foamy volume over a succession of rock stages, about seventy-five feet in height, from top to bottom. The fall is thickly overshadowed with foliage, and the general effect is pleasing and characteristic of a moorland torrent. But if the tourist should be disappointed in his expectations, and find an insignificant rivulet trickling down through the moss-covered rocks, he should remember that the most celebrated waterfalls in the Lake country, are subject to the same contingency. Lodore, at the head of Derwentwater, whose "splashing, and flashing, and dashing, and crashing," has been sung in echoing numbers, by a laureate, will often be visited, when in the tamed and diminished stream, the sanguine admirer of Southey would be at utter fault in discovering "how the water comes down from Lodore" in all the thundering magnificence of wintry streams or summer torrents, as faithfully represented in the simulative strains of the sportive muse.

Leaving Becky Fall and proceeding up the hill side, S.W., we

* Beck in the North of England, is the common term for a mountain rivulet. May we not here trace the etymology of *Becky*?

shall notice a dilapidated cairn, with a trackway, bearing in some places the appearance of an imperfect avenue, or parallelithon, coming upwards N.E. from the valley, and ending, after a course which can be traced two hundred and forty yards, in the cairn above. We shall here find ourselves on a moorland road leading from Heytor to Manaton, and returning towards the latter place, we shall pass the small field on the right hand, where the singular elliptical circumvallation mentioned in the general description, (p. 45,) will be observed, and which will not fail to attract the attention, and repay the inspection of the antiquary and the tourist.

Our road will now lead us through Manaton church-town, screened from the north by a rugged tor, which rises immediately behind it. The steeple is of less sturdy appearance than some of our moorland towers, but in the western front, it has a massive round-headed granite doorway, of almost Cyclopean character. We shall notice with satisfaction, in passing, the simple rural churchyard, with its well-kept turf and venerable yew, and the village green adjoining, a pleasing accompaniment, which one would rejoice to see connected with every hamlet in the kingdom.

Following the road to North Bovey, we shall pass below East Down, a detached pyramidal hill, forming a conspicuous object to all the country round. We shall be disappointed in our search for Druidical relics, on this eminence, although it is plentifully strewn with masses of the natural rock. Polwhele records the existence of a logan, formerly on this common, called the Whooping Rock, but which had been wantonly moved from its balance, some years before that author wrote his account. He describes it as "evidently a Druidical logan-stone," and says it "has been venerated by the superstitious neighbourhood, as an enchanted rock, from the time of the Druids to the present day."

North Bovey, at the foot of the hill, is a village of similar character to Manaton, (having also its well-planted green, or Playstow, in front of the church,) but with more picturesque accompaniments, in the meanderings of the beautiful stream below, which we shall cross in our return to Moreton. The eye rests on every object with satisfaction, as we pass along, except on that which should form the centre of this pleasing rural scene—the church and its granite tower; but the latter, unfortunately, has been so strangely bedaubed, as to offend every feeling of propriety and taste, by its parti-coloured garniture.

Our next excursion will cause us to retrace our steps to North Bovey, in our way to Bowerman's Nose, but when about quarter of a mile from Manaton, we shall leave that village on the left, and crossing a tributary of the Bovey, shall mount the hill by a moor-track, which passes over Heighen Down, in front of that remarkable pile. Bowerman's* Nose, as it is popularly called, rises from the brow of the headland which projects from Heytor, and the hilly track, between the dale of Widdecombe and those of Manaton and North Bovey. It is seen to greatest advantage, when approached from the north by the road we are now traversing; and is found, on examination, to consist of five layers of granite blocks, piled by the hand of nature,—some of them severed into two distinct masses; the topmost stone (where I presume the nasal resemblance is traced) being a single block. Polwhele seems to have been mistaken in calculating the height at fifty feet; it is rather less than forty above the *clatter* from which it rises. Conspicuous from its position, and remarkable for its form, it is easy to conceive that this fantastic production of nature, might have been pointed out to an ignorant and deluded people as the object of worship; nor is it unworthy of remark that, viewed from below, it strongly resembles the rude colossal idols, found by our navigators when they visited Easter Island, in the Southern Pacific, and when seen from the south, on the higher ground, it presents the appearance of a Hindoo idol, in a sitting posture.

It is only on the spot, that we can duly appreciate Carrington's graphic and faithful description,

On the very edge
Of the vast moorland, startling every eye
A shape enormous rises! High it towers
Above the hill's bold brow, and seen from far,
Assumes the human form; a granite god,—
To whom, in days long flown, the suppliant knee
In trembling homage bow'd. The hamlets near
Have legends rude connected with the spot,
(Wild swept by every wind,) on which he stands
The Giant of the moor.

* The cognomen of Bowerman, is thus accounted for by Mr. Burt. Speaking of the pile, he says: "It is generally considered as a rock-idol, and bears the name of Bowerman's Nose, of which name there was a person in the Conqueror's time, who lived at Hountor, or Houndtor, in Manaton." *Notes to Carrington's Dartmoor.*



WILLIAMS, DEL.

P. GEMMEL, LITH.

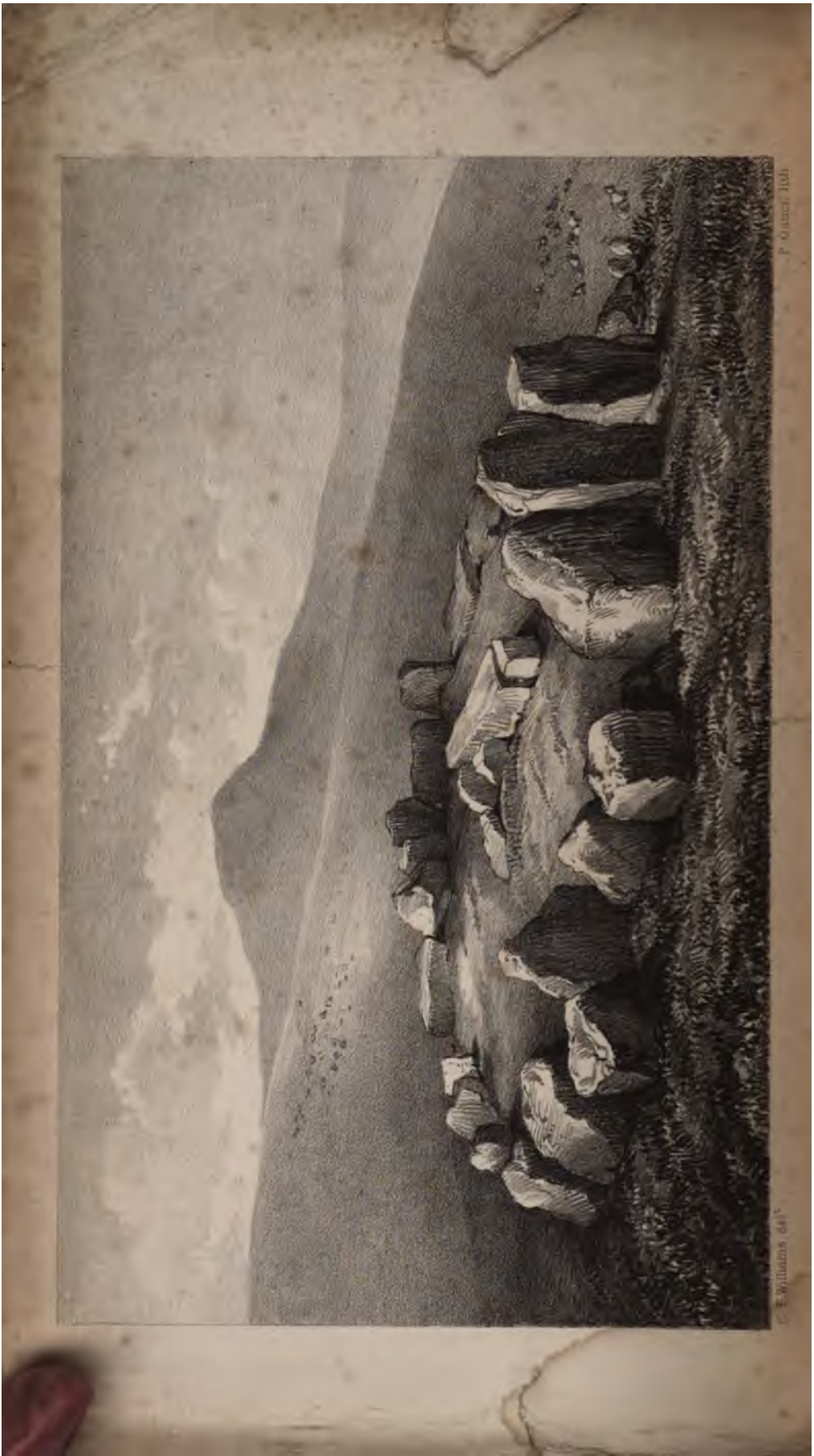
ROCK IDOL (BOWERMAN'S NOSE) NEAR MANATON.

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P. G. 1041

Among the unnumbered shapes, which, as our poet so truly sings,

By Nature strangely form'd,—fantastic, vast,
The silent desert throng,—

Bowerman's tor will always occupy a position of highest rank, for its singular natural conformation, and for the legendary recollections with which it is associated.

Among the numerous masses by which the hill-side is plentifully strewn, may be observed one, so well suited for the purposes of a logan-stone, that very little artificial adaptation would be required to impart to it considerable vibratory motion. A trackline connects the tor with another tor, southward, on the same hill. From this headland we look down upon Manaton, and observe immediately below, the Cyclopean elliptical inclosure, near it, as already described.

Leaving the height, and proceeding southward, we shall soon enter the Ashburton Road, and passing through a moor-gate, shall not fail to remark a lofty tor on the left, the north front of which presents the appearance of a mimic castellated building, with two bold projecting bastions. On closer examination, we shall find it to be Houndtor, one of the most interesting of the tors on the moor. The top of the hill is flanked by two colossal walls piled up of huge granite masses, sixty, eighty, and in some places, probably, a hundred feet high, with an open space between, forming an esplanade where Titan sentinels might have paced along, or rebel giants might have held a council of war. Returning from Houndtor, about a furlong S., we shall pass the kistvaen described above, (p. 35,) and follow the Ashburton Road until at the foot of Rippon Tor, where a road diverges to the left, which will soon bring us to Heytor,—which, from its commanding position on the south-eastern frontier of the moor,—at the head of a wide expanse of declivities which slope directly down to the level country, (through which the great mail-roads, from Exeter to Plymouth, pass by Totnes and Ashburton, in full view of the tor for many miles,) is probably more generally known and admired than any other of its granite kindred of the waste. Heytor rises from the brow of the hill with sombre grandeur, in two distinct piles; and when viewed from the neighbourhood of Kingsteignton, and other adjacent lowlands, under the influence of a sullen and cloudy sky, presents a singularly accurate resemblance

to a ruined castle, the massive keep of which, is represented by the eastern pile. On the top is a rock-basin, two feet and a half in diameter, but much less perfect than Mistor Pan and many others.

We shall now find ourselves amidst the "sights and sounds" so eloquently described by Howitt.* And if our visit can be so timed, we may even realize the characteristic *accidents* which will not fail to enhance the intrinsic loveliness of the scene. Here are "the wild thickets and half-shrouded faces of rock ;—the tors standing in the blue air in sublime silence, the heather and bilberry on either hand showing that cultivation has never disturbed the soil they grew in : " and here too, perchance, "one sole woodlark from the far-ascending forest on the right, filling the wide solitude with his wild autumnal note." We shall look with eager interest for that "one large solitary house in the valley beneath the woods," which he has commemorated ; and contemplating the manifold variety before us, of rock and mountain, flood and fell, wood and meadow, busy towns and silent wastes, the level flat of Bovey Heathfield and the beetling steeps of Dartmoor, the placid estuary of the Teign and the wide expanse of ocean seen over the rock-bound coast stretching far away to the misty verge of the southern horizon,—shall enter into the feelings which he has thus enthusiastically recorded. "So fair, so silent, save for the woodlark's note and the moaning river, so unearthly did the whole scene seem, that my imagination delighted to look upon it as fairy land." †

At the foot of the western pile of this conspicuous tor, we shall observe a trackway, running from south-east to north-west, intersected at the extremity by another, tending to the converse points of the compass, and discernible to the extent of two hundred and forty yards. The adjacent commons abound with similar remains of trackways and tracklines. One of these, of very marked character, comes down the hill from Rippon Tor, and crossing both the Bovey and the Ashburton Road, may be traced about two miles. We shall also notice many hut-circles, and other vestiges of aboriginal occupancy. One of the circles may be specified, consisting of eighteen stones closely placed, forming a circumference of seventy-five feet. Following the winding course of the trackline mentioned above, we

* See Preface, p. 3.

† Howitt's *Rural Life of England*, vol. ii., p. 379.

shall find ourselves on the high road to Chagford, which we shall follow, retracing our steps to the moor-gate, near Houndtor, and leaving Bowerman's Nose on the right, shall return towards Moreton, below East Down, on the western side, and passing Bector Cross,—(the time-worn cross itself stands in an adjoining field,)—shall enter the town by the Plymouth and Tavistock Road.

Our next excursion will lead us along that road until we reach the fifth mile-stone from Moreton. Here a group of interesting remains will attract our attention. One of the most prominent is a circle, or pound, two hundred and forty yards in circumference, inclosing two hut-circles. Three branches of trackways will be observed in connexion with this inclosure. One may be traced S.S.W., passing from the circumvallation to the valley below. Another, beginning at the circle, is lost in the boggy hollows beneath, but reappears on the opposite hill, and crosses the turnpike. Nearly parallel with the last, another line proceeds also from the circle, and is lost on the opposite slope, after crossing the high road, about a furlong west of the former.

We have now returned to a point where we have the means of ascertaining the course of the antient perambulation. We have arrived at the bounds of the East Quarter, which joins the North at Wotesbrook Lake foot, described in the original perambulation as falling into the Teign; and which was thought by the Perambulators, who made their survey in the reign of James I.,* to be the same as the stream then called Whoodelake. There, they accounted the North Quarter to end, one mile from Hingstone, or Highstone, near Fenworthy Hedges.† As the boundary proceeds from thence in a straight line to the stream which rises below the cairn-crested hill, called King's Oven, where it makes an angle, and then holds on in a direct line to King's Oven, we have in that well-known spot, and in Fenworthy, two ascertained points, between which we shall be able to trace the bounds of the East Quarter without danger of material error. In Broadmoor Mires we shall probably find the "turbary of Aberheve,"‡ or Aberheaved, "the fennye place, now called Turfehill"

* xvi. Aug., 6 James I., A.D. 1608.

† Called by the aforesaid Perambulators, Fernworthe Hedges. The inclosures of Fenworthy have therefore been evidently of long standing.

‡ In the root of this word, we have an instance of the antient British prefix Aber, so rare with us, but so common in Wales and Scotland.

by the aforesaid Perambulators, and in "King's Oven" on the hill above, Surt Regis, (which seems to be a strange misprint for Furnum Regis,) in Risdon's copy of the original document. But we must again forsake the guidance of the Perambulators, and return to the scene of our recent investigations, with Warren Tor, on the right.

Diverging from the high road, and mounting the hill southward, we shall notice many other vestiges of hut-circles and tracklines, in our way over Shapely Common. Passing the tor on the summit, we shall turn to observe the fine expanse of country which lies behind us, stretching away to the Exmoor range on the north. Taking the tors for our landmarks, we shall now keep a southward course, and make for Hooknor, the nearest tor in that direction, as this will probably be our best guide for finding Grimspound, (which will be our next object,) should our means of locomotion enable us to disregard the accommodation of roads. But if otherwise, the tourist will find it more convenient to proceed by the turnpike (instead of leaving it as above) to Vitifer mine, near a small inn by the way side, about six miles from Moreton. Here a carriage can be put up, and he will find himself about two miles from the object of his search, which appears on the slope of the lofty ridge, terminating the prospect eastward. A tolerable road to the stamping mills in the valley below, will be our best course from this point. In the angle between this road and the turnpike, we shall notice an antient granite cross, near the boundary of the parishes of Lydford and Chagford, standing erect in its original position, but time-worn and weather-beaten, with the storms of centuries. The modern letters, W. B., are graven on the shaft.

Leaving this venerable relic of medieval times, on the left, we proceed eastward, and cross the springs of the West Webburn near the source. The water-power thus furnished is rendered subservient to the mining operations in the valley below South-stone Common. A path east from the mine, leads us still eastward over Challacombe Down, where we shall notice many deep excavations and other remains of antient mines. On the saddle of Challacombe Down, with Grimspound immediately opposite, we shall cross, at right angles, an important parallelithon, or stone avenue,* running north and south,

* First noticed by Mr. John Prideaux, twenty years since, but apparently remaining in the same state, at the present time.

much wider than these at Longstone and Merivale, although the stones are of the same size and character. But unlike those, the Challacombe avenue has a third line of stones, so that instead of a single aisle, a double one is formed. The line of avenue may be traced clearly to the extent of eighty yards, terminating towards Birch tor on the south, and on the north, lost in an old stream-work.

By a steep descent, we shall reach the vale of Challacombe, where the origin of the local designation will be observed at a glance, and its significance manifested in this secluded nook, hollowed out of the acclivities of surrounding hills. This coombe, which opens pleasantly to the south, is watered by another spring of the West Webburn, and presents a pleasing proof of successful cultivation, under favourable circumstances, in the heart of the moor.

But Grimspound is now before us, as we mount the southern slope, below Hooknor tor. From this point of view, on the north side of the circumvallation, the sketch for the accompanying illustration of this most remarkable relic of aboriginal antiquity, was faithfully and felicitously made. A general description has been already given (p. 44) of this venerable specimen of a primitive British town, fortified by a strong wall, and containing numerous remains of antient dwellings within its Cyclopean bulwark. The large stone represented in the print, on the eastern side of the circle, marks the spot where the spring rises, and from whence, beneath the foundations of the wall, as already described, it flows, under the name of Grimslake, to join the Webburn. After a dry Spring, and a whole month of continuous hot weather immediately preceding, I have found, at Midsummer, a clear and copious stream issuing immediately from the source; so that it would appear, under ordinary circumstances, the inhabitants would have been always sufficiently supplied with pure and wholesome water. The classical investigator will probably be disappointed at not finding in Grimspound the characteristics of an antient British town, defended by woods, swamps and thickets, as described by Cæsar, in his account of the fortified post occupied by Cassivelaunus, where a large body of persons and herds of cattle might be congregated in security. But without raising the question, whether, when Grimspound was originally built, these naked declivities might not have been clothed with wood, as some suppose, the present natural circumstances might

suffice to account for the different kind of castrametation, exhibited in the stronghold of that valiant British prince.* The eastern Britons, on the banks of the Thames, had not the same advantage, in point of materials, as their Danmonian compatriots possessed, in the granite blocks and bowlders of Dartmoor, from which an effectual circumvallation could be speedily formed; to which those aboriginal engineers appear to have deemed it unnecessary to add the further protection of a fosse, since Grimspound is totally unprovided with any kind of ditch, or additional outwork, beyond its single rampart.

This is a feature of much significance, and should be duly regarded in our endeavours to ascertain the period of the erection of this rude but venerable fortress. The rampart is doubtless much lower than it was originally built, but unlike many of the *valla* of our hill-forts and earthworks, it has not been tampered with, nor the original design altered by successive occupants. Sir R. Hoare furnishes us with an important axiom in archæology, which may be legitimately applied in determining with proximate accuracy, at least, the æra of the erection of Grimspound. "In examining those earth-works, we must endeavour to discriminate the work of the people who constructed them; and wherever we find very strong and elevated ramparts, and deep ditches, with advanced outworks, such as Bratton, Battlesbury, Scratchbury, Yarnbury, Chidbury, Barbury, Oldbury, &c., we may, without hesitation, attribute these camps to the Belgic, or Saxon æra; for neither the Britons nor Romans had recourse to strong ramparts."†

But whilst, to many, the evidence of the existence of an aboriginal town at Grimspound appears conclusive, there are not wanting those who, in this venerable monument of past ages, can trace other objects than those which have been above assigned. Where history is silent, and monumental evidence disputable, an ample field is opened for theory and speculation. Some have discovered in this relic, a colossal temple of the Sun. Polwhele, who imagines antient Danmonium to have been divided into six *cantreds*, or circuits, observes, "that Grimspound was the seat of judicature

* Fosbroke, misled by Lysons, describes "Grimspound, in Devonshire, as a circular inclosure, situate in a marsh." *Ency. Antig.*, p. 77.

† *Ant. Wilts.*, vol. ii., p. 108.

for the cantred of Durius, is no improbable supposition."* It is true that the Gorseddau, discovered by Pennant, in Anglesea, and described by him as the Bryn Gwyn, or royal tribunal of the Arch-druid, appears to have been similarly constructed, in some respects, being a circular hollow, surrounded by a vallum of earth and stones, but forming a circle of not more than one hundred and eighty feet in diameter, whereas Grimspond covers an area of nearly four acres, an extent totally incompatible with purposes that might be conveniently accomplished in an amphitheatre whose circumference was less than six hundred feet. But to whatever conclusion the investigator may be led, as to the people by whom this marvel of the moor was constructed, or the objects contemplated in its erection, he will not return from his examination of Grimspond, without being convinced that he has inspected one of the oldest monuments of our island; whilst the mystery in which its origin is shrouded, and the appearance of hoar antiquity with which its gigantic rampart is invested, will add interest to his speculations, and deepen his recollections of this extraordinary, if not unique, relic of aboriginal times.

But no isolated examination of Grimspond, or speculation on its origin and purposes, will be satisfactory or complete, without reference to the other remains of primitive antiquity, existing in the immediate neighbourhood, and without due consideration of their probable bearings upon the question.

Cairns are numerous on the adjacent downs and hills. We shall find them on King Tor, north, and Hamilton Tor, east of Grimspond. Hamilton, the Saddleback of Devonshire, rises majestically above the stronghold, in a long bold ridge, and on its lofty eminence, we shall observe Hamilton beacon, commanding a vast extent of country, in all directions, and admirably adapted for the conspicuous site of a signal-flame to alarm the country, or for kindling the Beltine-fire, in the celebration of those Druidical rites in the month of May,† of which the bonfire was an essential feature. Mounting the hill, we shall come upon the grand central trackway above

* *Historical Views of Devon*, p. 20.

† The Druidical year commenced at the beginning of May, and a principal feast was made, and a large bonfire kindled in commemoration of the return of warmth and the sun. The Irish call the month of May *Beltine*, or *Belus' fire*. FOSBROKE, *Ency. Antiq.*, p. 578. It is worthy of remark, that among many other antient and expressive words retained in our vernacular, the term *TINE*, to kindle a flame, is still preserved.

described, (p. 46,) and from this elevated position shall have an opportunity of observing the direction it takes, and the probable relation which such constructions have to the antient mining works in the neighbourhood, and to those of the moor generally.

In the general description of this trackway, reference has been made to the authority of the Rev. J. H. Mason, a cautious and practical antiquary, whose long and intimate acquaintance with the topography, history, and traditions of the moor, entitle his views to the greatest respect, whatever difference of opinion may exist, as to his conclusions, from the facts which he has industriously collected. When, therefore, he inclines rather to regard these curious vestiges of antiquity as boundaries than as roads, I am anxious to preserve his observations on a subject of much local and antiquarian interest, as invaluable data, which might otherwise be lost to those who would gladly have recourse to the testimony of a competent observer, in endeavouring to solve an archæological problem of no little difficulty.

The point in our perambulation, at which we have now arrived is peculiarly suitable for investigating the subject under consideration. Hamildon and its immediate neighbourhood, having been the principal scene of examination, with immediate reference to the trackways and tracklines, or, rather, division-lines, as they are termed by an antiquarian friend* of Mr. Mason's, who had referred to him on the subject, and to whom he replies in a communication, which appeared in a provincial paper. "There is no chance," writes Mr. Mason, "of my being able to ascertain the height of the boundary-lines; they are now, I fear, in every part, razed to the ground. I have reason to believe, from the inquiries I have since made, that one of the boundary-lines you saw, (that on Hamel Down,) went to Crockern Tor, and from thence on to the common adjoining Roborough Down; if so, it divided Dartmoor, and must have extended from twelve to fourteen miles. There is a barrow on Peek Hill, near Walkhampton, where the boundary-line is now to be traced." On this Mr. Northmore remarks, "the whole line being from E.N.E. to S.W., and Dartmoor being thus divided into two

* Thomas Northmore, Esq., late of Cleeve, near Exeter, who, in a correspondence addressed to the Editor of *Besley's Exeter News*, treats, at some length, of these division-lines, and refers to the researches of Mr. Mason and others. His letters appeared in 1825, and, with some other important documents, have been obligingly put into my hands by Mr. Mason, for the purposes of this work.

almost equal parts, the north and south divisions,"—a distinction still traditionally recognised, as has been already noticed in the general description.

In the same correspondence occur the following remarks, by the Rev. R. P. Jones.* "The dykes, or trackways, have been traced through the uncultivated parts of the parishes of Manaton† and Widdecombe, over Hamildon, and from thence across Dartmoor. They generally run in a straight direction, nearly parallel, and are from four to seven feet in breadth. They are formed of large stones, and are raised above the level of the ground, and are frequently lost in bogs. In the inclosed country they cannot be traced, the stones having been removed. Two of these dykes have been traced out; one terminates at Crockern Tor, and the other about two miles distant, at Waydon Tor, on Dartmoor. They extend for about ten miles. On Hamildon they are not above half a mile from each other, and in the neighbourhood are several cairns, barrows, and circles."

"In tracing the northernmost *reave*‡ from Hamildon," writes Mr. Mason, "we lost it in a tin-work. The western end was, some time after, discovered towards Newhouse, emerging as it were, from a wall, the boundary of the Courtenay property." Mr. Mason adds a suggestion of great pertinence. "Are not these reaves, as they are called, the work of the tanners? *Omne ignotum pro magnifico*. Tin bounds have been brought down from an early period, and claimed by working tanners over property belonging to others. The estate of Fenworthy has, in my recollection, taken in a very large track, according to an antient tin-bound, admitted at Lydford Castle in the reign of Elizabeth. In the neighbourhood of Gidleigh,

* At that time curate of the neighbouring parish of North Bové, a gentleman who had abundant opportunities for examining this quarter of the moor, and who is well-known in the scientific world for his valuable publications on the Botany of Dartmoor and the vicinity.

† One of these is probably the trackline before described, where the mural character was so striking that, at a distance, it might be easily mistaken for a dilapidated new-take wall.

‡ This is the term by which these lines are universally known among the moormen. *Reave* is a vernacular term commonly used in Devonshire to describe rows, or courses, of stones, earth, or other substance, raised in any ridge-like shape. Sometimes it takes the form of *roave*, which expresses the same thing. *Wind-reaves*, or *roaves*, are rows of hay, barley, or oats, raked together in ridges, in harvest operations. This is, probably, a remnant of our antient Teutonic language. *Rœf*, in Icelandic, is *roof*; and in the ridge, or roof-like form, of these lines, may possibly be traced the original idea conveyed in the vernacular term *reave*. A *reef* of rocks is probably derived from the same source. It may not be inaptly remarked that the old word, reaver, (Ang. Sax. *reafere*,) and the modern rover, are identical, so that from *reave* to *roave* appears an ordinary transition.

similar reaves of stone were taken to be the boundary of a grant from the crown of a considerable portion of the Forest to Giles de Gidleigh, and the question at issue was thereby decided."*

Nothing can be more satisfactory or conclusive, than the evidence thus adduced in favour of the existence of antient boundary-lines on Dartmoor, constructed for marking the limits of commons, grants, tin-bounds, and other like purposes. But if a corollary be thence deduced, that such boundary-lines comprehend all constructions of this kind, I cannot but venture to question, however, deferentially, a conclusion which would militate against the distinction, drawn in the former part of this work, between tracklines and trackways,—the latter being regarded as causeways, or means of communication; the former, boundary-banks, dykes, or defensive lines. This distinction is fortified by the opinion of Sir R. Hoare, as it has been already observed, who remarks that by following these trackways on the Wiltshire downs, in more than one instance, he has been led directly into a British village. There seems no adequate reason for supposing that the Belgæ of Wiltshire enjoyed conveniences of this kind which were not possessed by their Danmonian countrymen, and that which would be legitimately inferred from the nature of the case, seems clearly demonstrated by existing monuments. While the boundary or tracklines vary from three or four to seven feet in breadth, trackways are found fifteen and even twenty feet broad; and while the former are seen to partake more or less of the mound, or vallum character, where not razed to the foundations, the trackways are totally destitute of all such appearance, and are merely causeways, constructed of stone, rudely laid in the soil, and slightly raised above the natural level of the country. We can scarcely imagine that a line of pavement, (however rude,) twenty, or even fifteen feet wide, and of considerable length, could ever have been constructed for the mere purposes of demarkation. That roads, or *ridge-ways*, have served as boundaries, has already been shown, whilst the very etymology of the word demonstrates the original design of the ridge, too obviously to admit of question.

The period when these works were constructed, is a point of far greater difficulty. Mr. Mason connects them with antient mining

* Rev. J. H. Mason, in a letter to the author, 1847.

operations, justly remarking that "the earliest trade from this country was in tin; the tanners were the most numerous class of working people. That they inhabited Dartmoor and its purlieus, their extensive works, fallen inclosures, and remains of hovels, evidently attest." Mr. Northmore thinks the dykes, or division-lines, may be of high antiquity, and originally constructed for a defence against beasts, as well as borderers; but he adds, "I am sometimes inclined to think them of later construction, having relation to the Normans, and feudal rights and customs," and assigns as his reason for inclining to the latter opinion, a communication he had received from Dr. Oliver,* with an extract from King John's Charter, *de libertatibus Devonie*, in which Mr. Northmore thinks there is evident reference to these division-lines of Dartmoor, "within which, the people of Devon could not make their deer-leaps, or inclosures."

Having carefully examined these interesting monuments, we shall have no difficulty in concluding that they may have been connected with mining operations, and yet belong to the British period of our history. But without pursuing these speculations further, and leaving the opinions which have been advanced, to be brought to the test of existing remains, by the practical antiquary, we shall now descend the north-east declivity of Hamildon, below the tor, and notice a circular inclosure called Berry Pound, much overgrown with fern and heather, but of similar construction to those already described in other parts of the moor. Here a salient ridge, projecting from the flank of Hamildon, throws the drainage on one side to the tributaries of the Teign, and on the other side to those of the Dart and the Webburn. By following the latter, we shall soon strike upon a lane that enters the head of Widdecombe Vale, along which we shall now proceed, with the ridge of Hamildon, high on

* This communication, from the learned author of the *Monasticon Diocesis Exoniensis*, is too important in an historical point of view, to be omitted. "The original," writes Dr. Oliver, (Sept. 1825,) "bearing date 18th May, 1203, (together with its confirmation by King Henry III., on 25th April, 1253,) was kept in Tavistock Abbey. Walter Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, whilst in London during the autumn of 1320, was anxious to examine the original charter of John, and applied to the Abbot, Robert Campbell, to send it up. The Abbot intrusted it to the care of a trusty friend, and the bishop conceived it to be of such importance, that he caused it to be copied into his Register, (fol. 152,) *ad plenioram memoriam futurorum*. By this charter, the whole county of Devon, with the exception of *Exmore* and *Dartmore*, were disafforested, or stripped of the oppressive privileges attached to forests. The inhabitants were even allowed to hunt, inclose and impark, '*infra regarda morarum illarum*,' on fulfilling the usual customs; but, '*in divisio predictarum morarum, non poterunt saltatoria vel hais facere*.'"

the right, forming for a considerable distance, the stupendous rampart of the valley on the western side. Here the tourist will observe the most perfect counterpart in our western peninsula, of one of the lovely dales of Westmorland or Cumberland, and the antiquary will find two logan-rocks as he proceeds, within half a mile of Widdecombe church-town. Both are still moveable. The Rugglestone, as it is called, in the neighbourhood, is an immense oblong rock, of which, as I learn, on the authority of the Rev. J. H. Mason, the computed weight is one hundred and ten tons. This huge mass rests on the supporting rocks beneath, so as to form a combination of the cromlech character. Its sides measure respectively about twenty-two, nineteen, seventeen, and fourteen feet; in mean thickness it is about five feet six inches. The other logan, is a flat stone, about eleven feet in length by nine in breadth, but not more than fourteen or sixteen inches thick; which can be set in motion by the pressure of the foot.

The dale expands about midway to make room for the pleasant knoll, on which the village and church are built, the "cynosure of neighbouring eyes." The lofty granite tower is finely proportioned, embattled, and finished with crocketed pinnacles. The name of this sequestered sanctuary is permanently associated in local history with one of the most awful and sublime, and the same characteristic accompaniments of moorland scenery—the thunder-storm. Moreton has been called the land of thunder, and such terrific storms as that which recently took place, when the greatest alarm was occasioned and considerable damage was done by the lightning, abundantly justify the appellation. But the skirts of the moor generally, from their mountainous character, are subject to these terrific "skiey influences;" and Widdecombe, with the mighty ridge of Hamildon on one side, and the lofty crest of Rippon Tor on the other, to gather and arrest the thunder-cloud, must be peculiarly exposed to such occasional visitations. Hence, probably, the appalling outbreak of that awful storm, the terrors of which are traditionally recorded,* after the lapse of more than two centuries.

* One of the legends connected with the storm at Widdecombe, used to rivet the attention, and to excite the terrors of my childhood. The tale passed current, that either a thunderbolt or a terrific minister of wrath in an unearthly form, was sent to inflict condign vengeance on one who was presumptuously playing at cards, in his pew by dashing him against the moorstone pillar, where the bloody evidence of his guilt an-

Oft the swain,
 When deeply falls the winter night, narrates
 To his own rustic circle, seated near
 The peat-pil'd hearth, how in th' involving cloud
 Tremendous, flashing forth unusual fires
 Was wrapt the House of Prayer ;—thy sacred fame
 Romantic Widdecombe ! The village bard,
 In simple verse, that time has kindly spar'd,
 Has sung it ; and in style uncouth,
 The pious rural annalist has penn'd
 The fearful story.—CARRINGTON.

The village bard,* and the pious rural annalist thus commemorated, were Richard Hill, schoolmaster, and the Rev. George Lyde, vicar of the parish, as we learn from Prince, author of the *Worthies of Devon*, who, in his memoir of Mr. Lyde, embodies an account of this awful tempest ("the chief ground," he observes, "of my inserting him here") in the quaint and characteristic style of the age.

"In the year of our Lord, 1638, October 21, being Sunday, and the congregation being gathered together in the parish church of Wydecombe, in the afternoon, in service time, there happened a very great darkness, which still increased to that degree, that they could not see to read: soon after, a terrible and fearful thunder was heard, like the noise of so many great guns; accompanied with dreadful lightning, to the great amazement of the people; the darkness still increasing, that they could not see each other, when there presently came such an extraordinary flame of lightning, as filled the church with fire, smoak, and a loathsome smell, like brimstone; a ball of fire came in likewise at the window and passed thro' the church, which so affrighted the congregation, that most of them fell down in their seats; some upon their knees, others on their faces, and some one upon another, crying out of burning and scalding, and all giving themselves up for dead. There were in all, four

punishment, as it was believed, remained for a considerable period. The original of this legend seems to be recorded by Prince. "Another man had his head cloven, his skull went into three pieces, and his brains thrown upon the ground whole; but the hair of his head, through the violence of the blow, stuck fast to a pillar near him, where it remained a woful spectacle a long while after.

* Mr. Hill's verses, recording the particulars of this awful tempest, are inscribed on a votive tablet for that purpose.

persons killed, and sixty-two hurt, divers of them having their linen burnt, tho' their outward garments were not so much as singed. * * * The church itself was much torn and defaced with the thunder and lightning; a beam whereof, breaking in the midst, fell down between the minister and clerk, and hurt neither. The steeple was much wrent; and it was observed where the church was most torn, there the least hurt was done among the people. There were none hurt with the timber or stone, but one man, who it was judged, was killed by the fall of a stone; which might easily happen, since stones were thrown down from the steeple, as fast as if it had been by an hundred men." *

The "village bard's," commemorative verses, inscribed "on a votive tablet, for that purpose ordained" in the church, also contained, according to the same authority, "a brief history of what then happened, in large verse, consisting of seven feet; too tedious to be here inserted, though they thus begun :"

"In token of our thanks to God, this table is erected,
Who, in a dreadful thunder-storm, our persons then protected."

With Rembrandt touch, Carrington has skilfully heightened the effect of his graphic delineation of this fearful catastrophe, by bringing into striking, but natural contrast, the calm and security of a rural sabbath-day—with the sudden burst of the lowering thunder-cloud, gathering blackness, and standing out in sublimer terrors, from the light and loveliness of the preceding scene.

Far o'er hill and dale,
Their summons glad the sabbath bells had rung :
From hill and dale obedient they had sped
Who heard the holy welcoming ; and now
They stood above the venerable dead
Of centuries, and bow'd where they had bow'd
Who slept below. The simple touching tones
Of England's psalmody upswell'd, and all,
With lip and heart united, loudly sang
The praises of the Highest. But anon

* PRINCE'S *Worthies of Devon*, 4to., p. 570. London, 1810.

Harsh mingling with that minstrelsy, was heard
 The fitful blast :—the pictur'd windows shook—
 Around the aged tow'r the rising gale
 Shrill whistled ; and the antient massive doors
 Swung on their jarring hinges. Then—at once—
 Fell an unnatural calm, and with it came
 A fearful gloom, deep'ning and deep'ning till
 'Twas dark as night's meridian ; for the cloud
 Descending had within its bosom wrapt
 The fated dome. At first a herald flash
 Just chas'd the darkness and the thunder spake,
 Breaking the strange tranquillity. But soon
 Pale horror reign'd—the mighty tempest burst
 In wrath appalling ;—forth the lightning sprang
 And death came with it, and the living writh'd
 In that dread flame-sheet.

But the curious antiquary will endeavour, with no little interest, to trace, at the antient manor-house of North Hall, adjoining the churchyard, evidences of the accuracy of the rural chronicler's faithfulness of description, in such vestiges of its former importance, as time and change may have spared ; bearing in mind, as Prince quaintly remarks of Hill, that his "history may be good, though his poetry be but indifferent." And since there are not many villages that can boast the honours of local minstrelsy, and Prince's work is too bulky, to be generally accessible, I make no apology for inserting the metrical description of this venerable moorland mansion, with its means and appliances for defence, and delectation, traces of which still remain.

The messuage there, which antiently
 Was chief or capital,
 Tho' much decay'd, remaining still,
 Is called yet North-hall :
 Whereas the houses, courtlages,
 With gardens, orchards, and
 A stately grove of trees within
 That place did sometime stand,
 Were all enclosed round about
 With moats of standing water,
 So that no thieves or enemies
 Could enter in to batter

The houses, walls, roofs, windows, or
 What else besides was there ;
 The moats or trenches being fed
 With streams of water clear,
 Wherein good store of fish was bred,
 As antient men did say ;
 The ruin'd banks whereof remain
 Unto this very day.
 And when the family within
 Would walk into the town,
 Or else return, a draw-bridge firm
 They presently let down ;
 And at their pleasure drew it up
 To keep the household safe—
 This house did antiently belong
 To Raph, the son of Raph,
 So is he named in a deed
 Of much antiquity,
 Which bears no date for at that time
 Was less iniquity.

Leaving Widdecombe—a smiling oasis in the desert—with all its natural attractions and olden associations, we shall proceed eastward, by a road which mounts the hill in the direction of Heytor and Rippon Tor, where we shall again find ourselves among the ruder monuments of unrecorded antiquity, on the slopes of Torrhill, or Taptor, as I find it is sometimes called. This is the hill which is described above (p. 47) as having its eastern declivity partitioned into antient rectangular inclosures, by tracklines or boundary-banks. Circular inclosures also occur on the Widdecombe side.

From Torrhill, in our way to Rippon Tor, we shall cross the high road to Ashburton, and notice, near the trackway, or boundary-line, already described, two hut-circles, one thirty feet in diameter, and the other eighteen. Within the latter are stones having the appearance of a dilapidated kistvaen,* but in no other instance have I seen a kistvaen, within a circular foundation, whose dimensions would admit of a superstructure with a roof; this would seem, therefore, to have been erected not as a fence to inclose a sepulchre of the dead, but as a house for the abode of the living.

* Col. Smith thought it might have been a sort of store-place for domestic purposes.



C. F. WILLIAMS, DEL.

LOGAN STONE, NEAR RIPTON TOR.

We shall now scale the rocky summit of Rippon Tor, which, according to De la Beche, rises to the height of fifteen hundred and forty-nine feet, but which, from its frontier position, has been often supposed to approach more nearly to an equality with the loftiest points of the Dartmoor range. The prospect, taking in the greater part of the South Hams, as well as a considerable extent to the eastward, and a fine sweep of hill country northward, is magnificent, but embraces so much that has been already viewed from Heytor, as not to call for more specific detail. The tor itself has nothing sufficiently remarkable to detain us, after we are satisfied with the charms of the landscape; we shall therefore turn westwards, and following the sloping crest of the hill, shall find ourselves, about a quarter of a mile from the top, in the midst of a number of scattered moorstone masses, among which the logan-rock, figured in the accompanying print, forms a prominent and curious object. This logan, is popularly known by the name of the Nutrackers. It measures sixteen feet and a half in length, about four feet and a half in thickness, and nearly the same in breadth. It is extremely difficult to imagine the position of the superincumbent mass to have been purely accidental, although it might possibly have been thus singularly placed by a diluvian convulsion. Its *logging* power appears to have been destroyed, in some unpardonable frolic, from mere wantonness.

Returning to the road near a little wayside alehouse, where shelter, if not *entertainment*, for man and horse may be found, we shall follow the highway, and soon enter the inclosed country with Buckland beacon on the right. We shall next notice the rugged crest of Answell Rock above the plantations, also on the right, with which, should we have time to climb the summit, we shall be much interested, looking directly down, as it does, upon the sylvan magnificence of Holne Chase. We shall retire from this glimpse of some of the loveliest woodland scenery in the west, with a full determination to return for a more leisurely inspection, and proceed to Ashburton, where the tourist will find every accommodation he may require.

In leaving Ashburton for our next excursion, on the right hand side of North-street, in an old house, may be noticed a good arched doorway of timber in the Perpendicular style, with the square flower in the hollow, all round the arch. We shall proceed by the Holne

road, as far as Holne Bridge, (which here crosses the Dart in the midst of beautiful wood scenery,) and leaving it on the left, shall trace the course of the river upwards, by a charming drive, which will take us immediately below Answell Rock, and through a succession of fine woods and plantations, belonging to Mrs. Bastard, of Buckland House, with Holne Chase full in view on the opposite side of the Dart. The banks of the river, in many parts, rise into steep acclivities,—bold cliffs occasionally project from amidst the rich and varied foliage with which the sides of the hills are fringed, and the windings of the stream present successive points of wood, rock, and river scenery, often grand, and always charming. The little rural church of Buckland-in-the-Moor, stands high on the eastern bank. Below, the two branches of the Webburn form one united stream at the southern extremity of the vale of Widdecombe, which running between Buckland and Spitchwick,* falls into the Dart, in Holne Chase, about a mile below Newbridge, in sight of which we shall diverge from the river side, and follow the road to the moors, with Leigh Tor on the right. On entering again on the commons, the road passes very near Beltor, which presents no object worthy of particular remark. Sharpitor, or Sharptor, rises grandly above the river, and will well repay a visit to its craggy summit; but our attention here will be chiefly directed to a group of aboriginal relics, which will be noticed near a moorland farm, called Rowbrook. On the right of the road, on the western slope of the hill, is a remarkably perfect hut-circle, twenty-four feet in diameter, with a door-jamb erect, three feet high. From this circle, a trackline, or boundary-bank, is carried down the hill and connects the hut with the foundation of a rectangular inclosure, forty-two feet by eleven, formed of the same materials and in the same manner as the hut-circle; but whilst the circular form is found in every part of the moor, the rectangular is of exceedingly rare occurrence. Below the road, and nearer the river, just above the Eastcombe cottage, is a very fine circular foundation, of large dimensions, and of a very interesting description, being, at least, thirty-eight feet in diameter, and having walls six feet in thickness. The door-jamb is of unusual size, five feet high and six wide; and the whole ruin is in much finer preservation than any of the smaller hut-circles.

* The seat of the late Lord Ashburton.

Yartor is one of the tors which should not be passed by, without a visit, presenting, as it does, the appearance of a hill fortified by the engineering of Nature herself. On the north and south are two courses, or walls, of natural rock. The western side has a low rude fence formed of granite blocks, and the eastern has a similar breast-work, though less perfect, and somewhat in advance of the parallel courses on the other sides of the tor. The whole conformation presents a rude but grand inclosure, suggesting the idea of a Cyclopean hill-fort, or of a natural temple admirably adapted to the wild and mystic rites of a dark, superstitious religion. The remains of some hut-circles, and the ruins of a kistvaen, the cover-stone of which is about five feet by three, will be observed N.E. from the tor.

In the vale below, the East Dart will be seen sweeping round the foot of Yartor hill, in its progress to join the western branch of the river at Dartmeet, where the confluence takes place, and where also is the junction of the three parishes of Widdecombe, Holne, and Lydford. Here we also meet again the Forest bounds, and find them well-defined by the watercourses of the Wallabrook * and the Dart. The last point noticed in the line of perambulation was King's Oven, (p. 126.) From thence an imaginary line marked the boundary of the East Quarter to Wallabrook, or Wellabroke Head, "and soe along by Wallebrooke," say the Perambulators, "until it fall into Easter Dart," at a short distance north of Yartor foot. The East Dart then becomes the limit of the Forest, and of the parish of Lydford to the confluence, at Dartmeet. The scenery here is varied and interesting; the fine reach of the Dart,—the noble slope and mural crown of Yartor,—the wildness of the moor contrasted with the plantations and inclosures of Brimps, rising immediately above the bridge,—all combine to attract and arrest the tourist's attention. An aboriginal Cyclopean bridge similar to that at Post-bridge, formerly spanned the stream, but is reported to have been swept away, not many years since, by an inundation of the Dart.

Crossing the bridge, we shall proceed by the turnpike road, leaving the line of perambulation, which follows the course of the West Dart up the valley. Below Huckaby Tor, (which presents nothing remarkable,) we shall diverge from the main road leading to

* One of the numerous Dartmoor streams known by that name.

Two Bridges, and proceed by the Holne road on the left, which winds down through the little moorland hamlet of Huckaby, to the river's bank again, in the midst of interesting border scenery. Here we cross the Dart at Hexworthy Bridge, and wind up the hill on the opposite side. Looking back over the valley of the Dart, we shall observe the river making a fine sweep round the common, rising boldly from the brink. We follow the road about a mile, and just before reaching Saddle Bridge, which crosses a rivulet called Oldbrook, or Wobrook, flowing from Skaur Gut, shall notice a group of trackline-inclosures on the slope of the hill, immediately above the road on the right. Here we again touch the Forest bounds, at the point of junction of the East and South quarters.

Having crossed Saddle Bridge, and advanced on the road about one hundred yards, we shall notice, on the right, a remarkable relic, constructed of materials like the circular inclosures in other parts of the moor, and presenting a similar appearance, but rectangular in form. Ruins of the wall to the height of five feet remain, where the ground declines towards the rivulet. At a short distance above, on the same declivity, will be observed the remains of a large pound-like inclosure in good preservation. The stones of which the fence is constructed are large, and are piled up more like walls, than those which are generally seen. This is particularly observable at the entrance, where, in most examples, granite slabs form the jambs; but in the present case, the sides of the doorway are built up, and present less of a Cyclopean appearance. This doorway is on the east side, and the wall remains, in some parts, not less than three feet high. Skirting along the hollow above Oldbrook, various remains of extensive tin-works will be noticed which may have been connected with the buildings below.

Returning to the Holne road, we shall soon reach Cumsdon Tor, on the left, standing on high ground, above the valley of the Dart, and opposite Sharp Tor. Here we shall probably seek for a reputed logan-stone in vain, nor although we scale the highest pile of the tor, shall we find any rock-basins, to repay our search. But we gain a commanding view of Dartmeet Bridge, and of the windings of the river at some of the most interesting points of its moorland course.

Crossing the road, and taking a course southward from Cumsdon Tor, we shall proceed over a wide extent of common towards Peter's

Boundstone, by a gentle ascent. On this extensive track, we shall find very few monumental relics; while those that occur, such as a cairn, near Cumsdon Tor, another about half a mile south, and an inclosure, fifty yards in circumference, at no great distance from the latter, present nothing worthy of particular remark. Cairns also are found on the eminences at Holne Ridge and Peter's Boundstone. Returning over Holne Lea, (a wide extent of monotonous moor country,) we shall pass through Holne church-town, without observing anything of especial mark to detain us at that moorland village, except the "frugal fare" for man and horse, which may be there obtained, and will scarcely fail to be needed, after so long an excursion over the breezy downs.

From hence our course will continue through Shuttleford to the road which traverses the ridge above the deep glen of the Dart, with Hembury Wood on the left. This will soon bring us to Hembury, or Henbury Castle, a hill-fort of an oblong irregular form, in the northern part of the parish of Buckfastleigh. Lysons computes the area inclosed by the ramparts, at about seven acres, and adds "at the north end* is a prætorium forty-four feet by seventeen." From Mr. H. Woollcombe's examination of it, in 1840, it appears to have remained in the same state as when we first visited it. Henbury occupies a commanding position on the wooded ridge which forms the western bank of the Dart, between Holne Bridge and Buckfast Abbey. Mr. Woollcombe's description gives the following particulars. "The ramparts are all very entire, and the ditches on the south, west, and part of the north sides, are still deep, having been forty feet in width. On the north and east the ground sinks so precipitously, as to form a natural fence. These sides are now clothed with coppice, and may perhaps have been always wooded." Hence this observant antiquary justly infers, that Henbury may have been one of the antient British towns surrounded by thick woods.

"The Prætorium," Mr. Woollcombe continues, "I imagine to be of more modern construction, and it is so completely a mound of earth as to lead me to think it might have been raised there in Norman times. If I conclude it to have been occupied by the Romans, and then to have had this Prætorium added to it, I do not see why they

* Not at the north, but in the south-western corner.

should have possessed themselves of it, not being connected with any road through the county.*" The site is commanding and well-chosen for defence, as well as for observation,—the vale of the Dart, Holne, Brent Beacon, Haldon, and the southern heights of Dartmoor are all in view. By the road which skirts the western side of the fort, we shall soon descend to Buckfast Abbey and Dart Bridge, and shall terminate our lengthened excursion at Buckfastleigh, a small market town, whose church, conspicuously placed on the brow of an eminence, which rises above the Dart, has lately been rendered an interesting object to the whole neighbourhood by the completion of the spire,

"Whose finger points to heaven."

This, with other judicious repairs of this venerable fabric, reflect credit on the liberality of the vicar and parishioners, by whose exertions the old truncated, half-finished spire, which had so long been a blemish on the scene, was removed. †

Our next excursion will lead us along the great Plymouth road to Dean gate; from whence we shall branch off to the right, in search of the scene thus described by Polwhele. "About four miles from Ashburton, in the parish of Dean Prior, the vale of Dean-Burn unites the terrible and the graceful in so striking a manner, that to enter this recess hath the effect of enchantment; whilst enormous rocks seem to close around us, amidst the deep foliage of venerable trees and the roar of torrents. And Dean-Burn would yield a noble machinery for working on superstitious minds under the direction of the Druids."

Leaving the inclosed country, and proceeding westward, we shall return to the extensive tract of common land, ‡ which we left, on

* WOOLLCOMBE'S *Fortified Hills in Devon*, MSS. He appends a note, quoting from Polwhele, to the following effect. "Some years since, a great number of oval stones were dug up at Henbury. They were plano-convex bodies, about three inches in diameter; no doubt they were the sling-stones of the antient Britons."

† The ecclesiastical antiquary will remark that this is the only spire among all the border churches. All the others have towers.

‡ These, and similar tracts of waste, are probably those referred to by the Perambulators of 1608, when they "present that the soyle of dyvers moores, commons and wastes, lying for the most parte, aboute the same Forest of Dartmoore, and usuallie called by the name of Common of Devonshire, is parcel of the Dutchie of Cornwall; and that fosters, and other officers of His Majesty, and his progenitors, kings and queens of England, have always accustomed to drive the said commons and waste grounds, and all the commons, moores, and wastes of other men (lying in like manner about the said forest, home to the corne hedges, and leape yeates rounde aboute the same common and forest,) some few places only excepted."—*Presentment of the Perambulators*, 1608.

bearing southwards, to visit Henbury Castle. On the ridge, near a cairn, we shall find a moorland road, coming up in a straight direction from Dean, and here dividing into two branches, one diverging to the left, towards Huntingdon (or, as it is in the Ordnance Map, Buntingdon) Cross and the Abbot's Way, and the other proceeding by Puppens and Ryder's Hill, to Aune, or Avon Head. We shall remark that these moors, extending between the Avon and the Dart, are remarkably deficient in tors, which so strikingly characterise the borders in other parts. The monumental relics are also comparatively few, and consist principally of cairns on the most conspicuous eminences.

We shall now return to the boundary of the South Quarter, in the midst of these monotonous moors, at Knattleburrow, about a mile to the eastward of the springs of the Avon; this is supposed, by the Perambulators, "to be the same that is called, in the old records, Gnatteshill," and by Risdon, (apparently,) Battshill. From the point, where the south and east quarters meet at Wobrooke, or Oldbrook, as mentioned above, in our last excursion, it is not easy to trace the Forest bounds, which are described as "from thence linyallie ascending to Drylake, alias Drywoorke, and from thence ascending by Drylake into Crefeild Ford, or Dryfeild Ford, and from thence to Knattleburrow"—but from this point we shall again have the advantage of the satisfactory guidance of natural objects. From Knattleburrow the boundary proceeds lineally to Western Wellabrook Head, following that stream till it falls into the river Avon. From this point, the boundary-line is carried to Western Whittaburrow,* or Peter's Cross, and from thence it proceeds in a straight direction to Redlake foot, a rivulet which rises about a mile north of Erme Pound, falling into the Erme, and marking the boundary of the Forest at the latter place.

But we have again reached a tract, where the hills are crowned with tors, and the moors abound with objects of antiquarian interest. We shall therefore leave the Forest bounds, and explore the interesting district, between the line of perambulation on the north; the verge of the common lands on the south; the Erme westward, and the Avon on the east. Proceeding eastward, from Peter's

* The Perambulation says Eastern Whittaburrow, but, it would appear, incorrectly.

Cross, and following the old road at the foot of Western Whittaburrow, called Abbot's Way, we shall regain the banks of the Avon. Leaving Huntingdon Cross on the left, we trace its course below Eastern Whittaburrow, through a wild and waste hollow, to Shipley Bridge, noticing some vestiges of aboriginal circles on the declivity as we proceed. The channel is steep and rocky, and the river flows vigorously towards the inclosed country, through a narrow gorge, flanked on one side by Black Tor, and on the other, by Shipley Hill. The single arched moorstone bridge,—little verdant pasture-crofts won from the waste,—a moor-farm, scarcely sheltered from the upland storms by a few sycamores,—peat stacks and granite boulders,—furze brakes and heather banks,—rugged moor-tracks winding up from the valley to the heights above,—all combine to impart a pleasing character of border wildness to the scene.

Following the moor-track which leads from Shipley Bridge westwards, with Black Tor on the right and Redlake rivulet on the left, we shall trace the stream upwards to the bog below Three Burrow Tor, from whence it takes its rise. Ascending the slope on the northern side, we shall strike upon a fine trackway, coming up the hill from the north-west, sixteen feet wide in many parts, and ending in the large cairn on the crest of the height. This cairn is of enormous size, probably one of the very largest in Devonshire; and with the two others, immediately near it on the same eminence, and in a straight line, gives name to this conspicuous and well-known tor. The cairns appear to have been erected upon the line of the trackway which we shall trace from the north-western tumulus, through the centre, to the south-eastern, and from thence shall follow it in that direction to the extent of a mile.

Proceeding towards Coryndon Ball, we shall observe an entrance gate opening upon the inclosed lands adjoining the common, through which a road leads to South Brent. Within a hundred yards of the gate will be noticed a congeries of massive stones, in which the observant investigator will have no difficulty to discover unequivocal evidence of a cromlech, once standing on this spot, but now in ruins, and apparently overthrown by intentional violence; as I observed that the supporters are not crippled under the impost, as if pressed down by the superincumbent mass, but are lying in situations where they could not have accidentally fallen. The third supporter stands erect

in its original position, of a pyramidal form, only four feet high, and five feet wide in the broadest part. The impost, or quoit, is eleven feet long, five feet at the widest end, and fourteen inches in average thickness. There are no other stones scattered around, so as to lead to the supposition that these are only large masses of granite, among many others, naturally thrown into these positions. There is only another large flat stone, of greater size than the impost, suggesting the notion of a covering for an Arkite cell. The height of the supporters of the overthrown cromlech, appears more adapted to the purposes of a kistvaen than of a cromlech, and it may also be observed that the monument stood at the verge of a large mound of stone and sod, sixty yards in circumference. A few score yards, S.S.E., are the evident remains of a cairn, sacked, doubtless, to build the boundary-wall adjoining.

While thus far on our way to South Brent, we shall take advantage of the moor-road over Coryndon Ball, to visit some interesting objects in and about that little market town, which is pleasantly situated on the Avon, at the foot of a lofty pyramidal hill, known by the name of Brent Beacon. Passing through the village, and going about half a mile along the old Exeter road, (which winds over its eastern shoulder by a toilsome ascent,) we shall find a pathway leading to the top of the hill. From hence an extensive view spreads before us in every direction.* In front, the vale of the Avon and the South Hams; on the north and west, the bleak expanse of the moor; while to the east, the prospect extends to the heights of Haldon. Descending over the steep declivity, on the north-western side, we shall reach the banks of the Avon, above the village, and proceed to the bridge, which is a single lofty arch spanning the deep and narrow channel of the genuine mountain stream, that runs chafing and foaming over the granite masses below. A pretty cottage, redolent with roses, and a "trim garden," overhanging the torrent, give contrast and effect to the scene. Returning by the river-side, through a stately avenue of beech, in the vicarage lawn, we shall pass the church, which is bounded on one side by a thickly-wooded and steep bank, rising immediately above the river. There is a fine old yew in the centre, which, with the

* There are no remains of a cairn or beacon on Brent Hill, and scarcely any vestiges of the building which formerly stood on the summit.

low machicolated and battlemented tower,—the chancel higher than the nave, externally,—the remains of the screen, and the piers and arches in the interior,—will not fail to detain and interest the tourist.

Following the Plymouth road to Brent Bridge, and there diverging towards the commons, we shall pass by Glaze Meet, on our way to the Eastern Beacon, a hill which, rising immediately above the inclosed country, forms a conspicuous object on the southern borders of the moor, and is crowned with a characteristic tor, the western pile of which is surrounded by a cairn-like agglomeration of stones. We shall observe that all the neighbouring heights are crowned with cairns, as we proceed southward, to Butterson Hill and the Western Beacon, which (if we may regard the chain of hills that encircles Dartmoor, as a vast natural circumvallation,) we shall describe as a huge ravelin projecting into the South Hams and over-awing the lowlands. Of all the views gained from the border-heights of Dartmoor, none is more extensive, varied, and interesting, than that which greets the eye from this the southernmost point of the great Devonshire moorlands. The South Hams lie mapped out, at our feet, with the iron-bound coast from Torbay to Plymouth Sound, forming the rugged boundary seaward. Beyond, the blue expanse of the English Channel stretches away far and wide, from Portland, in Dorset, to the Lizard Point, in Cornwall. Bays, headlands, and estuaries, diversify the sea-board scene, while mansions, churches, villages, and farms, are plentifully interspersed among the corn-fields, pastures, orchards, and woodlands, which occupy the whole district from the foot of the hills to the verge of the channel. The estuary of the Yealm, beyond Kitley, and the Lary, near Saltram, being completely landlocked, have the pleasing appearance of inland lakes, while the steeples and forts of Plymouth, rising amidst the smoke and haze of a populace and busy port, form a conspicuous and interesting feature in the western distance. Nor shall we fail to notice the railway's mazy track winding round the base of those rugged hills, and marking, by those works of almost more than Roman daring, (the viaducts at Glaze, Ivybridge, Blatchford and Slade, in this immediate neighbourhood,) the memorable æra in which we live. In such a spot as this, the admirer of natural beauty may be pardoned, if, catching the enthusiasm of a Goldsmith,

he cannot refrain from apostrophising the varied objects of interest which meet his delighted gaze,—claiming them as his own, by the very power of appretiating and enjoying their charms.

Ye glitt'ring towns, with wealth and splendour crown'd ;
 Ye fields, where Summer spreads profusion round ;
 Ye lakes, whose vessels catch the busy gale ;
 Ye swains, whose labours till the flowery vale ;
 For me, your tributary stores combine,
 Creation's heir, the world, the world is mine.—TRAVELLER.

We have thus reached, as already observed, the southernmost point of the great western waste, from whence, with a trusty guide, it is possible to traverse, without any other obstacle, than those of bogs and morasses, tors and clatters, a distance of twenty-two miles, over an uninterrupted succession of moorlands to the fences of Okehampton Park in the north. Bending our steps northwards, and skirting the western slope of the hill, we shall notice some remains of hut-circles, and observe below Black Tor, a large pond, which, in winter, might almost aspire to the distinction of a mountain tarn. On the common, above Lukesland Grove, are traces of a considerable circle, or ring, much dilapidated, which will not detain us from our inn, in the valley, to which we shall hasten through the moor-gate above Stowford, and crossing the line of the South Devon railway, in front of the viaduct, which here spans the ravine at one hundred and fifteen feet above the waterway of the Erme, and appears suspended in mid-air,—shall soon reach the border village of Ivybridge and there close our excursion.

Ivybridge, situated at the foot of the southern heights of Dartmoor, on the banks of the Erme, has been long celebrated for the picturesque bridge, draperied with ivy and overhung with luxuriant foliage, to which it owes its name. The great mail road from Plymouth to Exeter, was here, in former years, carried over the deep rocky channel of the Erme; but more recently a commodious bridge has been erected lower down, now superseded in its turn by the South Devon railway, whose viaduct we have observed spanning the deep glen above the village, between Hanger Down and Stowford.

*Nil mortalibus arduum est,
 Cælum ipsum petimus.*

Passing below this aerial highway, we shall proceed up the sylvan dell of the Erme to Harford Bridge, and from thence by Harford church, a little rustic sanctuary on the verge of the moor, with its characteristic granite steeple, and well-planted green adjoining, shall enter upon the commons, through a moor-gate hard by. In our progress along the side of the hill, above the eastern bank of the Erme, we shall notice a kistvaen in considerable perfection, within a circle of nine stones still erect, one of which is a large slab four feet six long, by three feet wide in the broadest part. The kistvaen itself is four feet six inches by two feet four,—the coverstone appears to have been broken, and has fallen into the cavity, which is about eighteen inches deep. This antient relic will be discovered without difficulty, by a practised eye, as the surrounding common is remarkably free from natural rocks, furze, and heather.

The lower part of the common, towards the river, is inclosed by a new-take wall, within which, we shall observe a group of singular inclosures, which the antiquary will find it difficult to classify. Antient tracklines, or boundary-banks, are mingled with walls of (apparently) more recent construction, yet these are evidently not erected for the ordinary purposes of modern fences. There are also the foundations of several large circular inclosures, one of which has the jambs erect, and another looks like a dilapidated cairn. The most perfect of these inclosures is thirty-two yards in circumference; but there are no hut-circles of the usual size, indicating aboriginal population. Traces of antient excavations might lead to the supposition that these appearances are referable to the mining operations of former days, but the most plausible conjecture will still leave much room for speculation. The Erme runs at the foot of the declivity, and the battlements of Harford church are seen peeping over the shoulder of the hill southward.

Proceeding up the slope of the common, N.E., we shall cross a line of bound-stones, tending towards the cairn on the summit of Sharp Tor. This cairn is about sixty yards in circumference, and at least ten feet high. A mountain track, which it may be possible for turf-carts to traverse, passes below this tor, and skirting Three Barrow Tor, bears onward to Erme plains. We shall follow this track to Redlake, where we left the Forest bounds in our last excursion, and noticing Erme Pound, near the river, shall trace the boundary along

the river to Erme, or Arme Head, which the Perambulators take to be a place named in the said [old] records Grimsgrrove.* Hence we shall strike across a tract of unvaried morasses, or bog-lands, to Plym Head, following the guidance of the Forest boundary-line, which is here drawn from point to point,—from the source of the Avon to the springs of the Plym. Here the South Quarter ends, and the Western takes its commencement; and near this point, about a quarter of a mile west of Plym Head, in Langcombe Bottom, with Sheepstor looming boldly against the western sky, we shall observe one of the most perfect specimens of the antient kistvaen in the whole of Dartmoor.† This aboriginal sarcophagus is formed of granite slabs, about a hand-breadth in thickness. The side stones of the sarcophagus are four feet nine in length; the footstone is two feet three inches,—the breadth of the kistvaen in the clear. The depth is about three feet. The coverstone has fallen in, but in other respects this antient sepulchre is singularly perfect. It seems to have been constructed on an artificial mound, or tumulus, slightly elevated above the natural level. A circular inclosure, thirteen yards in circumference, surrounds the kistvaen; some of the stones of which it is formed, remain erect in their original position, others have fallen. The ground, on all sides, is much overgrown with heather, and the anti-

* Some etymologists have traced the name of Graham, or Græme, in Grimsgrrove and Grimspound, and have thought that these appellations should be included in the same etymological category with Graham's Dyke.

† I am indebted for my knowledge of this interesting relic of antiquity, to the kindness of P. O. Treby, Esq., of Goodamoor, one of the four Deputy Foresters of Dartmoor, who is thoroughly acquainted with every part of the moor in this neighbourhood, and whose devotion to the sports of the field, for which Dartmoor affords such singular advantages, does not prevent his interesting himself, in the preservation of the venerable monuments of by-gone times. The votaries of nature, no less than the sons of Nimrod, will cordially respond to the general sentiment of the following characteristic lines, which were obligingly brought under my notice, at Goodamoor, and cannot be more appositely inserted, than in this place.

Let Fashion exult in her giddy career,
And headlong her course o'er the universe steer;
There's a land in the west never bow'd to her throne,
Where Nature for ages has triumph'd alone,
And Dian oft revels in wild ecstasy,
O'er gray granite tors, or soft mossy lea,
Where the fox loves to kennel, the buzzard to soar
All boundless and free o'er the rugged Dartmoor.

Far remov'd be the day ere fashion deface
The features and charms, of this primitive place!
The freehold of Nature, though rugged it be,
Long, long may it flourish, unsullied and free;
May the fox love to kennel, the buzzard to soar,
The tenants of Nature on rugged Dartmoor.

quary, without a guide, may have some difficulty in finding the object of his search ; but by crossing the boggy table-land from Yealm Head to Plym Head, N.N.W., and by following one of the springs of the Plym, as it flows down Langcombe Bottom, carefully examining the right-hand bank as he proceeds, he will not fail to discover it near the northern brink of the stream. Or if he comes from the Sheepstor side, and traces the river upwards, he will find it conversely on the left hand. And whilst he will not grudge the trouble of penetrating these difficult and dreary moorlands, he will scarcely fail to be struck with surprise, to find this primitive tomb in the midst of the wilderness, so far remote from every vestige of the occupation of living inhabitants.

Turning from the Forest boundary, and mounting the bank opposite to the kistvaen, we shall traverse the morasses, and pass a modern bound-stone, marked on three faces L. B. P., in our way to Yealm Head. This river takes its rise on the southern verge of the swampy table-land, which stretches to a wide extent above the sources of the Avon, the Erme, the Plym, and the Yealm. We shall follow the course of the latter stream, down a narrow moorland glen, between Broadall Down and Stallmoor. As we skirt along the western bank, we shall observe, on the declivity of Stallmoor, opposite, evident vestiges of circular inclosures.

In this glen, about a mile from the source, we shall observe the ruins of a curious building, which was conjectured, by Mr. Woollcombe, (who discovered it in 1844,) to have been a hermitage.

“Far in a wild, unknown to public view,” it certainly is, and thus might have met the wishes of the most solitary anchorite. Sooth to say, the recluse might have found some difficulty in supplying his scrip with fruits and herbs, like the “gentle hermit of the dale” of lyric fame, except when June had ripened the purple whortleberry ; but a supply of water from the spring, clear and abundant, the Yealm would furnish, as it flowed close to the walls of the sequestered cell, in a succession of cheery little waterfalls. A narrow strip of level ground runs along the river’s brink, backed by a rocky scarp on the east. Under the lee of this ledge, are the ruined walls of a small oblong building, inclosing an area about twenty-one feet by sixteen. The walls are formed of large stones, laid in earth ; no mortar appears to have been used. The remains

of the walls are from one foot to three in height. Mr. Woolcombe thought he could trace the appearance of the remains of a piscina in the eastern wall, where a recess will be observed, formed of granite slabs, but no vestiges of a fire-place appear. The door was in the north-east corner. A squared stone, much mutilated, will also be noticed, in which two oblong apertures have been made, but for what object is not apparent. Nor is it easy to decide for what purposes the building itself could have been erected, in this wild and remote spot, even if the evidence in favour of its eremitical character should be deemed questionable or insufficient.

Leaving the banks of the Yealm, and crossing Broadall Down, W. by S., we shall reach one of the tributaries of that river, rising in the hill-side below Pen Beacon. On the ascent immediately above, we shall observe the remains of numerous hut-circles and other vestiges of antient occupation, within a large irregular curvilinear inclosure. From hence, mounting the hill, N.W. by N. we shall make for the cairn on the summit, well-known by the name of Pen Beacon. From this cairn, a trackline proceeds directly along the ridge; this we shall follow in the direction of the neighbouring eminence, which we shall observe rising above Pen Beacon to the north. As we proceed, we find the trackline which probably here served as a boundary, on its approach to Shell Top, diverging from the tor, on the summit, a little to the east. Here, as on Whittaburrow, a cairn has been built round the tor, which is of small size, and consists of layers of native rock, rising like shelves above the surrounding aggregation of loose stones. Shell Top, or, to adopt the more euphonious appellation of the moormen, Pensheil, rises to the height of sixteen hundred feet above the sea-level, and is one hundred and thirty higher than Pen Beacon. As frontier heights, these are both conspicuous objects from all the adjacent lowlands; whilst the prospect from their summits, comprehending the greater part of those objects seen from the Western Beacon, is still more extensive towards the north-west, where Mistor, Cockstor, and Stapletor are seen on the western borders, and Bellevor is discernible in the very centre of the moor, peering over the line of table-land on the north-east. The lake-like appearance of the estuaries of our Devonshire rivers is here even still more decisive.

If acquainted with the country, we can almost trace, by means of its wooded banks, a great part of the course of the Yealm,—

Pride of our austral vales,

as Carrington styles it, from the point where we left it before, through the pleasant vale of Blatchford, (with the church and village of Cornwall on the western bank above,) onwards to the estuary, where, surrounded by the groves and heights of Kitley, Puslinch, and Wembury, we can discern its tidal waters “sleeping in sunshine,” like an inland lake. The Lary, (the estuary of Plym,) seen curving round Saltram point; the Lynher, or St. German’s lake; and the Tamar between Beer Ferrers and Llandulph, are all visible, presenting the appearance of inland sheets of water, more or less extensive.

But we must leave this noble panorama, and descend the southwestern slope of the hill, to examine a considerable aboriginal village, where the hut-circles are of the usual description; but the circumvallation is rectangular, instead of oval or circular as it is more generally seen. Lower down is Whithill Yeo, where the Torry, a considerable tributary of the Plym, takes its rise. Passing through a moor-gate, we now proceed S.S.W. to Cholwich town moor, where, on the lands of the Earl of Morley, near Torch Gate, there is a single line of stones, placed at regular intervals, of precisely the same description as the double lines, or avenues, already noticed in other parts of the moor. This venerable monument of antiquity has been lamentably despoiled within the last year, but the line can still be traced to the extent of two hundred and thirty yards. The stones are placed erect, at intervals of from three to six feet; at the northern extremity is a sacred circle of five yards in diameter, formed of six stones. The line runs nearly north and south; the highest stone is about six feet. I learn, with regret, that a much larger stone was removed a short time since; this is described as having been twelve feet high, and was therefore probably a *maen*, similar to that in the large village at Merivale. Under any circumstances, such spoliation would be most justly censured; how much more, when the whole neighbourhood abounds with granite, in all respects adapted for the purposes of the railway contractors, so that there is not the slightest plea for the sacrificing those monuments of past ages, at the shrine of modern enterprise.

Passing through Torch moor-gate, in the direction of Brimedge, we shall notice some traces of tracklines and hut-circles much obliterated. From hence we shall pass Goodamoor, the seat of P. Treby, Esq., a situation well-adapted for the residence of the Deputy Forester of the South Quarter. Here we follow the Plympton road through the village of Sparkwell,* and passing Beechwood,† the seat of Col. Mudge, to whose Ordnance Map of Devon the Dartmoor tourist is so much indebted. We here leave the Plympton road, and turning to the right, shall skirt the eastern side of Hemerdon Ball, on which an encampment for troops was formed at the beginning of the present century, in prospect of a French invasion; and which was then a heath-covered common, but which has since been cultivated to the summit by the judicious management of Capt. Woollcombe, of Hemerdon, the proprietor.

From hence, we shall soon enter upon a good road, which passes from Ivybridge through Cornwood towards Tavistock, and as we advance along the commons, shall notice the china-clay works, on the lands of the Earl of Morley and Capt. Woollcombe, mentioned in the Geological View. (*Appendix* No. 1., p. 207.) By the roadside, on the right, on Lee Moor, north of the buildings connected with these works, is a rude, massive cross, the shaft of which appears to have been broken off, as there is only enough now left to raise the cross slightly above the large block, in which a socket has been formed to receive it. Diverging from this road, and proceeding to the westward of the Morley clay works, we shall find, near the road from those works to Shaugh church-town, a singular relic,

* Here we shall notice a little unpretending chapel, which has been provided for this distant part of the extensive parish of Plympton St. Mary, by the indefatigable exertions of the zealous incumbent, the Rev. W. J. Coppard, seconded by the liberality of the neighbouring proprietors.

† The Beech grows vigorously in many spots on our moorland borders. At Great Fulford, the fine old seat of Baldwin Fulford, Esq., is a noble avenue, so widely spreading that Virgil might have placed Tityrus with perfect satisfaction under the shade of the least. Col. Mudge's seat, on the south border, derives its name from a number of these stately trees, which adorn and characterise the spot. In antient times the numbers were probably far greater, and with the oak, might have been frequented by our Pagan ancestors for the purposes of worship; and if our excursion from the heights of Pensheil to Beechwood has been made under a cloudless sky, we shall fully enter into the feelings of the friend of Wilberforce, who thus felicitously describes the amenities of a beechen grove, and carries us back to Druidical associations. "O what a delicious oratory is a beech wood, in a calm hot day! Not a leaf stirring,—not a sound,—a sacred kind of steady light, with here and there a straggling sunbeam, like the gleam of providential direction in the dark concerns of life. I do not doubt that the Druidical influence arose from the worship in woods. It must have been irresistibly imposing." JAMES STEPHEN to WILBERFORCE,—*Life*, vol. ii., pp. 463, 4.

known in the neighbourhood as the Roman Camp; but which, as Mr. Woolcombe, on inspection, immediately pronounced, it certainly is not; nor does it appear to be an entrenchment belonging either to the British, Saxon, or Danish periods. In form, it is a parallelogram, measuring one hundred and fifty feet by eighty-six; the ramparts, or artificial banks, by which it is surrounded, are from twenty-six to forty feet high in some places, and have been evidently constructed with sod and earth taken from the inside, and not from without, so as to form a fosse for more effectual defence, as is usually done. Since it could not have been an entrenchment for defence, the conjecture has been hazarded, that this singular erection might have been for the purpose of exhibiting games, or for other large assemblies of people.

Returning to the highway, we shall proceed to Cadaford Bridge; and diverging to the right, along the banks of the Plym,* shall visit Trowlsworthy Warren for the purpose of examining a group of antient relics in that neighbourhood. One of the numerous Dartmoor streams which bear the name of Blackabrook, here renders its tribute to the Plym. Scarcely a furlong N.E. of this rivulet, on the slope of Trowlsworthy Hill, is a fine example of the Pound, or Cyclopean inclosure, of an irregular oval form, ninety feet by seventy. The mound in some parts forms a slope of twelve feet. About a quarter of a mile on the same side of the hill, with Great and Little Trowlsworthy tors on the ridge, eastward of the former, is a sacred circle, with an avenue, or parallelithon. The circle, which consists of eight stones, is seventy-three feet in circumference. The highest stone is five feet from the ground by two in breadth. Seven remain in their original position, and one has been thrown down. The parallelithon consists of sixty stones on the east side and fifty-five on the west, leading towards Blackabrook, and ending in a stone five feet high. Above a quarter of a mile west, we shall observe another circle of much smaller dimensions, no more than eighteen feet in diameter, of which all the stones are fallen. From thence a line of similar stones, forty-six in number, can be traced, which appears to terminate in a larger stone four feet in height.

Returning to the banks of the Plym, we follow the course of the

* Sometimes erroneously called the Cad.

river through a deep border-glen, which, under the name of the Valley of the Cad, is thus graphically described by one of the annotators on Carrington.* "The traveller will behold the Valley of the Cad to the greatest advantage, by descending the left bank of the river from Cadaford Bridge. * * * The right bank rises to a dizzy height, covered with a beautiful profusion of young trees. It is opposed, however, on the other side, by a slope of very different appearance. All there, is dreary yet magnificent,—barrenness without a bough to shade it, and, at first sight, without a vegetable beauty to recommend it. Huge fragments of granite lie scattered about in wildest confusion. Some masses appear as if they had just been torn out of the bowels of the moor by some unearthly power; others are on tiptoe to quit their precarious situations and roll down to the flashing torrent." Allured by such a description, to thread the rocky mazes of this sequestered glen, we shall proceed till the rugged crest of Dewerstone, sung by more than one native minstrel, is descried towering above the scene. "This huge mass of rock," continues the same writer, "rises perpendicularly from the stream to an immense height. Its whole surface is jagged and seamed in the manner so peculiar to granite, which makes the beholder imagine that the stones are regularly piled on each other. It is profusely overgrown with ivy, and other creeping plants, which spread their pleasing foliage over its shattered front, as if anxious to bind up the wounds that time and tempest have inflicted. To add to the striking effect of its appearance, numerous hawks, ravens, &c., may be seen floating around its rugged crest, and filling the air with their hoarse screamings. The rocks immediately beneath seem as if they had been struck at once by a thousand thunderbolts, and appear only prevented from bursting asunder by chains of ivy. A few wild flowers are sprinkled about in the crevices of the cliff; tufts of broom wave like golden banners in the passing breeze; and these, with here and there a mountain ash clinging half-way down the precipice, impart a wild animation to the spot."

We wind down the glen to Shaugh Bridge, amidst the familiar scenes upon which the muse of Carrington loved to dwell, where, from "Dartmoor's prolific bosom,"

* Mr. H. E. Carrington, son of the poet, editor of the *Bath Chronicle*.

Rolls the Plym,
 With murmuring course by Sheepstor's dark brow'd rock,
 And Meavy's venerable oak, to meet
 The ever-brawling Cad.* How oft, as noon,
 Unnotic'd faded into eve, my feet
 Have linger'd near thy bridge, romantic Shaugh;
 While as the sister waters rush'd beneath
 Tumultuous, haply glanc'd the setting beam
 Upon the crest of Dewerstone.

This river has been happily characterised by our bard, as "the sylvan Plym."† At Shaugh Bridge, this pleasing and characteristic feature begins to be decisively manifested. Here the stern ruggedness of the upland ravine appears blended with the softer lineaments of downs and woodlands. From Dewerstone to Saltram Point, where its estuary widens into a tidal lake, the banks of the Plym are, for the most part, clothed with woods chiefly of England's national tree, the noble oak. The bold headland, from the eastern flank of which Dewerstone protrudes, is mantled with copse down to the "margent" of the united streams. Few spots in the west display a greater share of natural charms "than this vale, in whose bosom the dark waters meet; and here, too, the "accidents" of moorland scenery, in the most sublime and awful forms, may be contemplated, under singularly favourable circumstances, by those who fear not to woo Nature in her wintry garb, and in her mountain seclusion. A high temperature and a thick fall of snow are not unfrequently, in our variable climate, succeeded by a rapid thaw, accompanied by heavy and continuous rain. Such a sudden thaw took place during the severe winter of 1823, on the night of the 27th of January.

* The late Mr. N. Howard, of Tamerton, near Plymouth, in his interesting local poem, *Bickleigh Vale*, has sketched some points of this border-scenery in flowing numbers.

Hence the Cad, o'er rocks white flashing, roars
 To meet the lucid Plym.

But both poets seem to be mistaken in designating this stream by the name of Cad. That it is properly the PLYM is evident from Plym Head being well known as its source, and Plym Steps being also on the same branch, not far from the source. The name of Cadaford Bridge has probably given rise to the mistake;—it having been inferred that *Cadaford* must necessarily mean the ford of the river Cad. But *Cad* is a *battle-field*. Hence it may be conjectured, on more satisfactory grounds, that this bridge may have been so designated from some unrecorded conflict on the neighbouring moors. The western branch of the Plym, which joins it, above Shaugh Bridge, has been by some called the Mew.

† *Plym*, says Baxter, in his Glossary, from *Pilim*, Erse or Celtic, to roll.

The pouring rains and the melting snow rushed together from a hundred hills into the narrow glen of the Plym; and speedily swelled the stream to a mighty river, which overspread the entire floor of the vale, and swept along high up the slopes of the acclivities with resistless force, until the adamantine barrier of Dewerstone checked for a moment the impetuous torrent. But like a furious animal loosened from its bonds, and maddened by resistance, the raging stream dashed its turbid waves against the beetling cliff, and threw the foaming spray, as in triumph, over its loftiest crag, while the roar of conflict was heard far along the echoing dales. The unbridled flood, came careering down the widened vale, and rushing amain through the lofty arch of old Shaugh Bridge, filled it to the key-stone, and directing the main force of its overflowing current along the eastern bank, dislodged the huge masses which formed the antient causeway to the mill, as though they had been pebbles. This bridge has been replaced by the present substantial structure of hewn granite.

Following the road along the line of this causeway, we shall diverge from the river and mount the hill, eastward, in our way to Shaugh church-town, a straggling village of genuine moorland character. The rude simplicity of this hamlet, and the Alpine wildness of the whole surrounding scenery, (in the opinion of a noble lady of no mean authority on points of art and taste,) forcibly impress the travelled observer, with their resemblance to some well-remembered scenes amidst the Swiss mountains. The village church, with its lofty, well-proportioned moorstone steeple, forms a conspicuous and pleasing object as we ascend the breezy common. And should we be tempted to turn aside, to examine more closely this simple but venerable moorland sanctuary, we shall doubtless hear from the sexton an account of the well-remembered thunder-storm, which occurred in the same winter as the flood above recorded, and which would have been no less terrific in its results than that of Widdecombe, had it not providentially happened on a weekday, instead of on Sunday, in service time, as in the former case. The lightning struck off one of the pinnacles of the tower level with the battlements; and hurled the fragments on the roof over the southern aisle, the western part of which was laid in ruins. About two hundred and thirty panes of glass were shattered, and among the few

that escaped uninjured, was a small one, at the east end, of stained glass, the emblazonment of which, intimated the antient dependance of Shaugh church upon the Priory of Plympton St. Mary. Stones of large size were flung into the neighbouring croft, at a considerable distance. The rural chronicler will, perhaps, "point a moral," by telling us that a parish meeting for paying the poor had been fixed to be held, in that very part of the west end of the aisle where the pinnacle fell, and where, had the parishioners met, as intended, the loss of life must have been far more terrific than at Widdecombe;—he will probably assure us, that there were many who thought at the time that the thunder-storm was intended to admonish against such profanation of the house of God in future.

rubente

Dextera sacras jaculatus arces.

On Shaugh Common, east of the village, we shall notice many remains of hut-circles, as well as some larger inclosures. Proceeding along the slope of the common, above the road from Shaugh to Plympton, we shall observe an interesting relic of the cromlech kind, but to which Polwhele denies the honour,—for reasons which, on examination of the object itself, will immediately appear inapplicable and groundless. The impost-stone is doubtless supported in an unusual manner, resting partly on a ledge of rock, which forms also a natural wall on one side of the area covered by the quoit, but artificially supported on the other side. The impost, apparently, stands in its original position, and is similar in appearance to those which belong to undisputed cromlechs.

Returning to the road, we pass through the moor-gate on the south, and following the highway towards Plympton, shall observe on the high ground south of Brixton Farm, (originally known as Heath Down, but now inclosed,) the vestiges of a small camp or entrenchment. The ground has been cultivated, but the circumvallation can still be traced, and is found to form a complete circle, of five hundred yards. This antient fort, which is known to antiquaries by the name of Boringdon Camp, seems never to have consisted of more than a single rampart and ditch. It commands an extensive prospect on all sides, and especially towards the south-west, where Plymouth Sound is distinctly seen, at the distance of seven miles,

and was no doubt designedly erected, in view of the Channel. From hence we soon reach a sylvan lane which descends the hill between Newnham Park on the left, and the grounds of Elfordleigh on the right, and conducts us to the vale of the Torry, at Loughtor Mill, where we cross the stream, amidst scenery of much interest. Still journeying southwards, within two miles we shall arrive at the village of Ridgeway, where the name of the antient Roman road is still preserved in the modern appellation; and where, in all probability, it will be found that the line of the antient highway is indicated for some distance, at least by the present mail-road from Plymouth to Exeter. At Plympton, in the vale below, as a stannary town, and as a place where the antiquary will not fail to find many objects of sufficient interest to excite inquiry and to repay examination, we shall terminate our excursion.

At the two Plymptons,—St. Mary, and St. Maurice or Plympton Earl, by which designation the borough town is distinguished from the former parish,—we shall find within the circuit of about half a mile, an undoubted Roman road; a Norman baronial castle, with a lofty mound and the remains of the massive walls of the keep,—the base court, moat, and barbican clearly defined; the site and vestiges of a once wealthy and important priory; two churches of hewn stone,—one, that of Plympton St. Mary, full of architectural interest,—and both indicating their proximity to the moorland district by the granite of which they are constructed; and a large school-house, raised on arches, with high pitched-roof, mullioned windows, also of granite, and a spacious piazza below. Plympton Earl, which boasts the latter fabric, claims also high antiquity as a borough; and the well-known couplet, current in the neighbourhood, alludes to the comparatively recent origin of its prosperous daughter-town of Plymouth.

Plympton was a borough town,
When Plymouth was a furzy down.

A respectable looking Guildhall of the latter part of the seventeenth century, built on arches and projecting into the street, according to the prevailing fashion, stands as a monument of departed parliamentary honours. The castle, once the possession of the powerful family of Redvers, earls of Devon, (whence the cognomen of the borough,) overawed and protected their subject town, which nestled

in its pleasant valley, under their formidable bulwarks. The church was originally a chantry chapel to Plympton St. Mary adjoining. The grammar-school is celebrated as the place where Sir Joshua Reynolds received the rudiments of education under his father, the master of the school, in 1723. Plympton, although not larger than many villages, is a complete town in miniature, with its continuous lines of respectable-looking houses, paved streets, and public buildings; and with him who, like the author, cannot revisit its well-remembered purlieus, without a crowd of pleasing associations with by-gone years, the "Donjon keep," the old penthouse, the venerable school, and the Great House, will remain indelibly impressed upon the memory, as the characteristic features of the miniature municipality. From the ruined walls of the keep, or the loftier vantage ground of the tor-capt eminence, which rises boldly above the town on the west, all the varied and pleasing objects of the cheerful vale of Plympton, bounded on the north by the Dartmoor range, will be full in view; nor will he fail to recall, with personal application, the appropriate lines of the great master of the English lyre,—

I feel the gales that from ye blow,
 A momentary bliss bestow,
 As waving fresh with gladsome wing,
 My weary soul, they seem to sooth,
 And redolent of joy and youth,
 To breathe a second spring.

Coming down from the hill, by a steep lane which enters the road at the west of Plympton, we shall proceed on our next excursion through Dark-street lane. In the significant appellation of *street*, most antiquaries detect good evidence of the existence of an old Roman road, (*strata via*,) and the proximity of the Ridge-way to which we again return at the end of Dark-street lane, in the present instance, greatly favours the hypothesis.

Beyond the western extremity of the village of Ridgeway, in a low situation,* near the banks of the Torry, we shall obtain a nearer view of the fine old parish church of Plympton St. Mary. The lofty

* A legend (similar to one found in other parts) connected with the building of this church, is called into requisition to account for its erection in a situation which originally must have been little better than a marsh. The site fixed upon, (certainly, a more central and dry one than the present,) is said to have been Crownhay Castle, about two miles to the eastward, near the present Chaddlewood lodge, and there, accordingly, materials for the future church were deposited. But, to the astonishment of the workmen,

granite tower, embattled, pinnacled, and crocketed; north and south porches, and the south aisle, also, embattled; and the five roofs, are the external features of this interesting specimen of Perpendicular architecture, which will immediately strike the antiquarian observer. Nor will he be disappointed in the interior, where the eastern windows, in particular, the sedilia, the Strode monument,* and the four arcades, will not fail to attract his attention. A few meagre relics of the once flourishing priory may be traced on the south of the church, and beyond the precincts the convent mill, under the name of Priory, still exists.

At Plympton St. Mary bridge, we diverge from the Plymouth turnpike, and follow the road by which, from early times, an intercourse was kept up between the antient towns of Plympton and Tavistock. Passing over the saddle of the hill, it skirts Boringdon Park, and, dropping into the well-wooded vale of the Plym, crosses that river at Plym Bridge, near which, beneath the trees on the right of the road, will be observed the scanty remains of an antient ruined chapel or cell. We cross the bridge and mount the opposite hill to the Plymouth and Dartmoor railway, which follows the frequent sinuosities of the declivities along which it is carried, and thus discloses, in succession, the justly celebrated charms of Bickleigh Vale; nor could a pleasure-drive through a lordly domain have been more felicitously laid out for the enjoyment of the scenery than the line of railway between Leigham and Jump, where it skirts the Tavistock turnpike at the southern extremity of Roborough Down. Here we look down upon the village and well-proportioned granite steeple of Bickleigh,† with Shaugh and Dewerstone among the purple heights eastward.

the stone and timber collected there by day, were regularly and pertinaciously removed, by the Enemy, at night; until, at length, wearied by repeated attempts to build on the original site, the architect was constrained to erect his church where it now stands, some four or five miles from the eastern extremity of the parish.

* The restoration of this interesting mediæval monument, as well as other parts of the church, and the excellent state of the building in general, reflect the highest credit on the correct taste and unwearied zeal of the Rev. W. J. Coppard, who, during an incumbency of thirty years, has proved himself the able and judicious conservator of the sacred edifice intrusted to his care, and has shown how much may be accomplished by perseverance and well-directed exertion, for the maintenance and preservation of the antient sanctuaries of our land.

† The steeple is the only antient part of the edifice. The entire church was taken down and rebuilt, in the Perpendicular style, with substantial materials, and in excellent taste, at the sole expense of Sir Ralph Lopes, of Maristow, Baronet, the principal proprietor of lands in the parish.

We pass over a breezy tract of open country, bounded by the grounds of Maristow on one side, and the western branch of the Plym, or Mew, on the other, to the eastern verge of Roborough Down, at Hoo Meavy Bridge. Here we cross the river, and proceed to the village of Meavy, (which appears to take its name from the neighbouring stream,) where we shall pause to examine the simple rural church, with the venerable oak in front, coeval perhaps with the sacred structure itself. The tree is of no great height, but spreads widely, and the trunk is of large circumference. Completely hollowed out as it is, it yet bears its leafy honours aloft, and presents an object of much interest and picturesque beauty. The village chronicles relate that nine persons once dined within the hollow trunk, where a peat-stack may now be frequently seen, piled up as winter fuel.

From Meavy, we trace the course of the river upwards to the adjoining parish of Sheepstor, noticing the waterfall as we proceed. The village church, with its moorstone tower, stands at the foot of the rugged tor, which rises boldly above, and gives name to the parish. We climb the hill, and soon find ourselves in a wilderness of scattered moorstone masses, with which the whole southern slope is profusely covered. In the midst of the *clatter* we shall discover the cave, or Pisky House, as it is popularly called, in which it is said, that one of the family of Elford once found a secure asylum in the troublous times of the civil wars. The opening, which is exceedingly difficult to find, without a guide, is under an overhanging mass of moorstone. The passage proceeds at first in a straight direction, but suddenly turns, and terminates in a sort of recess where two or three persons might lie concealed. The notion that this cave is the resort of the Piskies, or Pixies, appears still to be extant in the neighbourhood.

Almost due east from Sheepstor the moorlands rise into a high ridge, the loftiest point of which is at Eylesburrow, where we once more meet the Forest boundary coming hither in a direct line from Plym Head.* From Eylesburrow we trace the bounds by an imaginary line to Siward's Cross, which is said to have had antiently

* The rivers which take their rise in the northern parts of the moor, have already been enumerated, (p. 75.) Those rising in the swampy table-land of the south may here be mentioned to complete the catalogue.

The PLYM, rising near Eylesburrow, flows westward below Trowlsworthy tor, to Cadaford Bridge, Dewerstone, and Shaugh Bridge, where it receives the Mew, or West

inscribed on one face of the stone the words CRUX SIWARDI, and on the other, Roolande.*

It appears that about two years since, by some means never satisfactorily ascertained, this antient cross was overthrown and broken. That a monument so interesting has not been irrecoverably lost, is owing to the timely care of Sir Ralph Lopes, who caused it to be repaired and replaced in its former position.

The remains of another cross in this quarter of the moor, has been supposed to point out the spot where Childe, of Plymstock, was benighted, and perished from intense cold, but this may be mere conjecture. If Risdon's account is to be credited, the place where "the luckless hunter," near Fox Tor, met his death, was marked by some kind of sepulchral monument. This our quaint topographer describes as the second of the three remarkable things in the Forest. "The second is Childe's of Plimstock's tomb, of the manner of whose death mention is already made, in Plimstock, which is to be seen in the moor, where he was frozen to death." The story of his slaying and disembowelling his horse to shelter himself from the biting blasts of the moor, and of his leaving a couplet to the following effect, which contained his last will and testament, written with his own blood, have been often said as well as sung. †

*The fyrste that fyndes and brings me to my grave,
The lands of Plymstoke they shal have.*

PLYM, from Meavy and Sheepstor. The augmented stream continues its course through Bickleigh Vale to the estuary of the Lary, and falls into the sea at Plymouth, to which famous port, as well as to the borough of Plympton, and the parishes of Plympton St. Mary and Plymstock, it gives name.

The YEALM rises in the boggy table-land south of Shavercombe Head, and flows in a direct course to Cornwood. At Leemill Bridge it is crossed by the great Plymouth road, passes Yealmpton, to which it gives name, and meets the sea in a lovely estuary, completely landlocked by the heights of Wembury, Newton Ferrers, and Revelstoke, so as to form, at full tide, two lakes of singular beauty.

The ERME, or ARME, takes its rise south of Cater's Beam, about a mile and a half from Plym Head. It passes Harford church in its way to Ivybridge, flows by Ermington, to which it gives name, and falls into Bigbury Bay at Mothecombe.

The AVON, AVEN or ANNE (which seems to have been the antient appellation) has its source on the highest part of the southern table-land, north of Cater's Beam, near Peter's Boundstone. Thence it flows southward, to Brent, Avon Bridge, and Deptford, leaves Modbury on the right, and flowing by Loddiswell, gives name to Aveton, or Auton Gifford, where it expands into an estuary, and falls into Bigbury Bay, near Burr Island.

* *Notes to CARRINGTON'S Dartmoor.*

† Carrington has sung the fate of the ill-starr'd sportsman in a spirited ballad, entitled Childe the Hunter, which concludes in the following stanzas:—

Yet one dear wish,—one tender thought
Came o'er that hunter brave,
To sleep at last in hallow'd ground,
And find a Christian grave.

"Now whatever," observes Mrs. Bray, "modern critics may think of the rhyme, it soon appeared that the monks of Tavistock found there was reason in it, and good reason, too, that they should constitute themselves heirs of old Childe; for soon hearing that he was frozen to death, somewhere near Crockern Tor, they set their wits and hands to work to give him as speedily as possible an honourable sepulchre."

"But as the heirship was thus left vague and open to competition, there were others who thought themselves quite as much, if not more, entitled to succeed than the friars, and these were the good people of Plymstock, in whose parish the lands in question had their standing; and though not invited to the funeral, yet out of respect to the old gentleman, or more probably to his acres, they not only determined to invite themselves, but also to try how far club-law might settle the heirship in their favour; and so taking post at a certain bridge, over which they conceived the corpse must of necessity be carried, they came to the resolution to arrest the body out of the hands of the holy men by force, if no better settlement of the matter could be effected."

"The friars, however, were men of peace, and had no mind, may be, to take up any weapon sharper than their wits; since, as Dr. Fuller says, when speaking of this adventure, 'they must rise betimes, or rather not go to bed at all, that will overreach the monks in matter of profit;' for these cunning brothers, apprehensive of losing their precious relics, cast a slight bridge over the river at another place, and thus crossing with the corpse, they left the men of Plymstock the privilege of becoming, very sincerely, the chief mourners, whilst they interred old Childe in their own abbey church, and according to his last will took possession of his lands."* "In memory whereof," says Risdon, "the bridge beareth the name of Guile Bridge to this day;" but, according to Mrs. Bray, "is now more commonly known by the name of the Abbey Bridge," which crosses the Tavy at the south entrance of the town, by the old Plymouth road. As the Childe was buried at Tavistock, his monument in the Forest wilds must have been a cenotaph. It is said to have existed till within the last thirty or forty years, and then to have

* *Tamar and Tavy*, vol. ii., p. 54.

been destroyed by the grantee of a new-take; but there are many discrepancies in the current accounts, which it is difficult to reconcile; yet the story claims insertion, as one of the characteristic traditions of the moor, where, from time to time, many benighted and bewildered wanderers have lost their lives on the bleak and trackless waste.

We shall proceed from Siward's Cross, in our return to the tributaries of the Mew, or western branch of the Plym, in search of Clacy Well, or Crazy Well Pool. A rough moor-track comes up the valley from Sheepstor and Leather Tor, and on the right of this road, as we advance westward, we shall observe a miniature ravine in the common, down which runs a noisy rivulet. By following this stream upwards from the road, we shall soon reach the pool, S.E. of Stanlake, S.W. of Cramber Tor, and within a short distance of the Devonport leat. Clacywell is a large pool, or sheet of water, which, I was informed, covers an acre of ground. Along the verge of the banks on the top, I found the measurement to be three hundred and forty-six yards. From this part, which is level with the adjacent common, the banks slope rapidly down to the margin of the pool. On the east side the bank is almost perpendicular, and is nearly one hundred feet high. At the lowest part it is, at least, thirty, except on the south where the water finds an outlet. All the banks are covered with heather and other moor plants, like the neighbouring common; but there can be little doubt that the greater part of the hollow is an artificial excavation, and that the moormen's notion of it is probably correct in the main, that it was "an old antient mining pit." They will also relate that the pit has no bottom, because the bell ropes of Wakington (Walkhampton) church tower were once tied together and let down to try the depth, but no bottom could be found. But unfortunately for this legend, its credit was much damaged in the hot summer of 1844, when the pool was nearly drained dry, to supply the deficiencies of the neighbouring leat.

In our progress from Siward's Cross we shall probably not have deviated materially from the course of the perambulation. The boundary is described as running lineally to Little Hisworthie, i.e. I presume, Hessary Tor. But we have now reached a tract rich in antiquities, and must not pass onwards without a careful examination of those which will be found at one of the head springs of the Mew,

near Black Tor, which rises about twelve furlongs south-west of Hessary.

The tor itself, on a near approach, forms a striking object. An immense block, resting slightly on the main pile, has much of the appearance of a logan-stone. On the edge of this mass, is a rock-basin, of an irregular oval form, two feet eight by one foot ten. Nearly a furlong from the tor in the glen below, on the eastern bank of the stream, are a pair of avenues which are only forty feet apart, and run parallel to each other, east and west. They are formed of stones two feet and a half high, and each is terminated at the east end by a circle, thirty-six feet in diameter, consisting of fifteen stones, inclosing a cairn. A stream forms the western termination of both these parallelithons; the southern can be traced about one hundred and eighty feet, and the northern, which is more perfect and distinct, three hundred. The stones at the head of the avenues are of larger dimensions than the others, as in other examples. Between the northern avenue and the stream is a cairn. Another will be observed at the extremity of the southern, but very imperfect. It is somewhat remarkable that these avenues have escaped entire demolition, as they are intersected diagonally by an old stream-work.

On the slope of an adjacent hill is a Pound, or circumvallation of an irregular form, three hundred and sixty yards in circumference, inclosing nine hut-circles of the ordinary description. Nearly opposite Stanlake Farm, on the same hill, fronting westward, is another Pound of similar character, but not more than two-thirds the size of the former. Within and without the fence are many hut-circles. On the eastern side flows a brooklet, which appears to have been diverted from the natural channel, below the Pound.

Proceeding northward, towards Hessary, we shall reach the high road from Plymouth to Prince Town. In the immediate neighbourhood of an ancient stream-work, we shall observe a number of hut-circles close to the highway. There are many others on the slope of the opposite hill eastward, the foundation slabs very perfect, with the door-jambs standing. North-west of these is a cairn containing a dilapidated kistvaen. Following the road, from hence we shall soon arrive at Prince Town, where, or at Two Bridges, distant scarcely two miles, we shall find accommodation for the night, and a central position, from which a great number of interesting objects may be conveniently visited.

Foremost amongst these is Crockern Tor, which we shall reach by proceeding from Two Bridges, along the Moreton turnpike-road, from which town it is distant about eleven miles. This tor has long been celebrated as one of the wonders of the Forest, although there are numerous other objects, of far greater interest in reality, which have been passed without notice by those who have commemorated the antient Parliament Rock. Yet, if Polwhele's conjecture deserves any credit, faint as are the existing vestiges of by-gone ages which will repay the antiquary's investigations at Crockern Tor, the charm of association will not be wanting to impart interest to the scene. Our provincial historian having fixed the seat of judicature for his cantred of Durius, at Grimspound, assigns Crockern Tor as the site of the supreme court of the cantred of Tamara. To these antient courts of justice, if such these were, Polwhele traces the origin of the stannary parliaments of Devon and Cornwall, which he affirms "were similar in every point of resemblance to the old British courts." He observes that "Crockern Tor, from its situation in the middle of Dartmoor Forest, is undoubtedly a very strange place for holding meetings of any kind. Exposed as it is to the severities of the weather, and distant as it always has been, within our own times and the memory of man, from every human habitation, we might well be surprised, that it should have been chosen for the spot on which our laws were to be framed, unless some peculiar sanctity had been attached to it, in consequence of its appropriation to legal or judicial purposes, from the earliest antiquity. Besides, there is no other instance, that I recollect, within our own times, of such a court, in so exposed and so remote a place. On this tor, not long since, was the warden's or president's chair, seats for the jurors, a high corner stone for the crier of the court, and a table, all rudely hewn out of the rough moorstone of the tor, together with a cavern which, for the convenience of our modern courts, was used, in these latter ages, as a repository for wine. Notwithstanding this provision, indeed, Crockern Tor was too cold and dreary a place for our legislators of the last generations; who, after opening their commission and swearing the jurors on this spot, merely to keep up the old formalities, usually adjourned the court to one of the stannary towns."

That Crockern Tor was long the place, where the hardy

stannators of the moorlands held their conventions, must be received as an established historical fact, whatever may be thought of our author's hypothesis of the original choice of the spot for judicial purposes. Our older topographers notice the circumstance. Prince, who wrote in the year 1697, records that Crockern Tor, in the Forest of Dartmoor, was the place "where the parliament is wont to be held for stannary causes; unto which the four principal stannary towns, Tavistock, Plimton, Ashburton, and Chagford, send each twenty-four burgesses, who are summoned thither, when the Lord Warden of the Stannaries sees occasion, where they enact statutes, laws, and ordinances, which, ratified by the Lord Warden aforesaid, are in full force in all matters, between tinner and tinner, life and limb excepted. This memorable place is only a great rock of moorstone, out of which a table and seats are hewn, open to all the weather, storms, and tempests, having neither house nor refuge near it, by divers miles. The borough of Tavistock is said to be the nearest, and yet that is distant ten miles off."*

It would, perhaps, be incorrect to say that no traces whatever of this celebrated hypæthral court can now be detected; but on careful examination they will be found to be lamentably slight, if not decidedly equivocal. The common report, that the most remarkable objects, such as the table and seats, were removed and destroyed by the workmen of Sir Francis Buller, then the owner of the neighbouring estate of Prince Hall, has been condemned by the annotators on Carrington's Dartmoor, as a calumny, although the Rev. E. Bray affirms† that the allegation is so far confirmed by the fact of his finding at Dennabridge, (the place whither the stannary tables is reported to have been carried,) a tabular moorstone, eight feet long by nearly six wide, which the farmer at Dennabridge stated, from his own knowledge, to have been there fifty years; and that he had heard it was brought from Crockern Tor about eighty years ago. In the first volume of Mrs. Bray's Letters, is an amusing account of Mr. Bray's pursuit of the lost relic in 1831, and of its alleged discovery at Dennabridge Farm, near the well-known drift-pound of that name on the banks of the West Dart. In 1835 I obtained some information

* Chagford and Ashburton are about the same distance.

† Mr. Bray, however, exculpates Judge Buller, and thinks the spoliation may be attributed to a former Reeve of the Forest.

from a moorland patriarch, near the spot, who stated that he had lived on the moor sixty years, and had been in the service of Judge Buller. He remembered, perfectly well, when there was a chair, or stone seat, at Crockern Tor, with four or five steps to go up to it, and that overhead, there was a large flat thinnish stone. These were all by degrees removed for building; the last of them having been taken away, as well as he could remember, about twenty years before that time.

With these recollections in our mind, let us descend from Crockern Tor, and strike across the common over Cherrybrook, to Dennabridge Pound, on the Ashburton road. Immediately within the entrance is a stone seat, which, if my aged informant's account of the judge's stannary chair be accurate, would present an appearance greatly similar to that venerable relic before it was demolished. Although others may be unable to discover in Dennabridge, those unequivocal evidences of aboriginal antiquity, which were so satisfactory to Mr. Bray, the conclusions to which a practised observer was led, on personal examination, will not fail to be interesting. "Had I any doubt before, that the pound was erected on the base of an antient British, or rather Celtic, circle, I could not entertain it now, for I have not the slightest doubt of the high antiquity of this massy chair." After speaking of the Reeve, (the probable despoiler of Crockern Tor,) he adds, "but I am fully convinced that it was originally designed for a much greater personage; no less, perhaps, than an Archdruid, or President, of some court of judicature.*" Dennabridge Pound occupies a large area, inclosed by a rough moorstone wall. It is now used for the forest drifts, and is capable of containing vast numbers of cattle.

Dennabridge adjoins the Ashburton road, which we shall follow, until we cross a small tributary of the Dart. Near this rivulet, on the common, east of the road, is an aboriginal village inclosure, but without any remains of hut-circles within the area. We have now again approached the Forest bounds, at the junction of the East and South Quarters, on the West Dart. We therefore return over the common, near the rivulet above mentioned, with Loughtor about half-a-mile north. From hence, we can make our way through a

* *Banks of Tamar and Tavy*, vol. i., p. 134. From Mr. Bray's Journal, published in this work in 1833, it appears that his recorded observations extend as far back as 1802.

succession of inclosed common lands to Belavor Tor, below which, on the S.S.W., is a huge moorstone slab, raised about nine inches above the natural rock on which it stands, so as to be made easily to vibrate. This is, probably, one of the many similar masses on the moor which have fortuitously assumed the logan character. Should we search for rock-basins on this conspicuous tor, we shall be disappointed; but the venerable pile affords a fine central station, from whence a noble panoramic view of the moor is obtained. Holne Lee, southward; Hessary, Great Mistor, Longaford Tor, west; Sittaford, north; Hamildon, Houndtor, and Rippon Tor, east; with Buckland Beacon, Quarnian Down, and Yartor, south-west; and a vast extent of waste, are the characteristic objects by which, on all sides, we are surrounded. In the name of Belavor, as well as in Belstone and Beltor, many, with Polwhele, have imagined that they can discover traces of the idol worship of the antient Britons, and proofs of the eastern origin of their religion, supposing these places to have been so designated, from the celebrated oriental deity, Bel, or Baal.

Descending from the tor, northward, we cross a moor-road leading from the turnpike to Belavor Farm. Crossing this road to the common opposite, we shall find many aboriginal relics on Lakehead Hill. On the higher part of the eminence is a congeries of stones, possibly the ruins of a very large kistvaen, one of the side-stones being about six feet in length. At the east end, the stone is fallen, and the cover is also displaced. On the same hill, about a furlong N.W., is a kistvaen in great perfection. The sides, which are about four feet four inches long, by one foot nine, stand fifteen inches above the ground. Another kistvaen, at no great distance, will be observed in connexion with a cairn, as in other places. We return to the rough moor-road, and having noticed, on the descent opposite Belavor, a circle, twenty yards in circumference, shall proceed by Belavor Farm (one of the oldest moor-farms in the Forest) to Belavor Bridge adjoining. Below the modern structure over the East Dart, are the remains of an aboriginal Cyclopean bridge of three openings. The rude piers and abutments still remain, and one massive granite slab still spans each of the eastern and western openings; but the centre stone has been displaced, and no trace of it appears in the stream below. This primitive bridge is

similar to that at Post Bridge, higher up the stream, but the stones which span the waterway are not so large, measuring only twelve feet six in length.

From hence, passing over Redridge Down, where we shall notice a circular inclosure in a very imperfect state, we shall proceed to the Wallabrook, above which Quarnian Tor rises on the south-east. In this direction we shall observe many cairns, but none sufficiently remarkable to detain us from our progress up the Wallabrook, for the purpose of tracing the line of perambulation from hence to King's Oven, where we left it in our former excursion. (See page 126.) Having observed the cairn which, on the summit of the eminence, marked this well-ascertained boundary, and exercised our ingenuity, as others have done, in endeavouring to find some relics which would account for this curious designation, we shall direct our course westward, and leaving Merripit Hill on the right, shall proceed to Post Bridge, on the East Dart. The aboriginal bridge has been already described; but when we observe that this is the scene of considerable agricultural improvements, and that many dwellings have been erected in the immediate neighbourhood, we shall be as much surprised as pleased, to find that this venerable relic of primitive times has escaped demolition, and has been preserved to a period when a more enlightened appreciation of national antiquities extensively prevails. We shall remark that the antient structure bears more east and west than the modern bridge, and probably thus points to the great central trackway which passes over Chittaford Down. We may hope that in future, this antient British structure will be under the protection of a neighbouring gentleman, who, whilst he has proved himself one of the most successful, as well as one of the most enterprising, improvers of the moor, has displayed the most laudable anxiety for the preservation of the remains of antiquity. At Archerton, on the Dart, just above Post Bridge, Mr. J. N. Bennett, of Plymouth, under a grant from the Duchy, has inclosed a considerable tract of land, in the centre of which he has built a comfortable residence. On the slope in front of the house are some antiquities of great interest, which are now protected within a recently erected fence. The remains of a singularly formed elliptical inclosure can be traced, with an entrance on the south-east, where the oval outline, instead of being continuous, is bent into two

circular sweeps, between which, apparently, was the original entrance to the inclosure. Within are vestiges of tracklines, and the ruins of an aboriginal hut, where not only the formation but the remains of the walls are still to be seen. Some years since, it presented the most perfect specimen of a ruined British habitation, of more solid construction than those generally found on the moor, as this appeared to have been constructed of stone, the interstices being filled with sod, and to have had a roof of the bee-hive, or domical form. Within the inclosure are other antient remains, and in the immediate vicinity, relics of kistvaens, more or less perfect. One of these primitive sepulchres may be particularly noticed, as it is surrounded by an external circle eight feet in diameter. The kistvaen itself measures four feet six inches by four feet three.

Between the boundary of Mr. Bennett's estate and the Dart, a moor-track runs north, towards Hamlyn's New-take, where we shall notice several hut-circles. Still proceeding along the high ground, above the valley of the Dart, we shall observe in Templer's New-take, opposite Hartland Tor, and about a mile above Post Bridge, a Cyclopean circumvallation, which deserves the name of a miniature Grimspound; but, unfortunately, its rampart is much less perfect, having been demolished on the N.W. and partially built upon for the purpose of forming a modern fence, which intersects the area on this side. A large segment of the circular inclosure, however, still remains, forming a sweep below the new-take wall, two hundred and twenty-four yards in length. The original base of the wall, or rampart, appears to have been about twelve feet wide; in some parts of the circumvallation, it has more the appearance of a wall than usual, as the stones are piled upon each other instead of being heaped up promiscuously. On the north side, the rampart re-appears beyond the new-take wall, but here the spoliation has been lamentable. We shall notice a large hut-circle with others of smaller dimensions, and the whole forms one of the most striking and interesting objects in the Forest.

Passing over Broad Down and Ladehill, we shall notice several cairns on the heights, and, turning southwards, shall cross Chittaford Down beyond the inclosed lands of Archerton. Here we shall trace, without difficulty, the trackway already described, as it passes from the East Dart westward, over the common, to Waydown Tor. From

hence we shall scale the steep acclivity of the long ridge which runs between Cherrybrook and the West Dart, and terminates in an inland promontory at Crockern Tor. This ridge is fortified by a range of tors in succession, of which the most conspicuous are Longaford, Betor, and White, or Whitten Tor. On some are rock-basins, and, near Longaford, a hut-circle of the usual dimensions. Of these relics, we shall observe many more groups, and a pound of irregular form, on the western slope of the hill, above the narrow vale of the West Dart, and near the "lonely wood of Wistman."

Wistman's Wood is the third of Risdon's "three remarkable things" in the Forest of Dartmoor. By him, it is described as consisting of "some acres of wood and trees that are a fathom about, and yet no taller than a man may touch the top with his hand." The general description of this third wonder of Dartmoor, is in sufficient accordance with its present condition to warrant the conclusion that the lapse of more than two centuries has not materially changed its aspect, and that probably for a much longer period it has presented the same singular appearance as now. The traditionary account that the wood was planted by Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Devon and Albemarle, in the thirteenth century, has been related by some authors; but, as Mr. Bray justly remarks, "to any one who has visited the spot, it is evident, no other hand has planted it than that of God."* Nor can there be any reasonable doubt, that here we behold the poor relics of those sylvan honours which we may reasonably conclude once graced many of the moorland vales and acclivities, without contending that the entire district (whose soil, as Dr. Moore † has shown, is unfavourable to the growth of trees,) was at any period one continuous forest, in the ordinary acceptance of the term.

The whole world cannot boast, probably, a greater curiosity, in sylvan archæology, than this solitary grove in the Devonshire wilderness. Wordsworth has celebrated the characteristic yews of the Lakelands, in his description of the "Fraternal Four of Borrowdale;" but whilst venerable yews may be found in a thousand English sanc-

* *Tamar and Tavy*, vol. i., p. 102. This gentleman also refers to a Perambulation of the Moor, (made immediately after the conquest, and still preserved among the Records of the Duchy,) to prove that "Wistman's Wood was, even at that remote period, much the same as it now appears."

† *Appendix*, No. iii., p. 217.

tuaries, the antient storm-stricken oaks of Wistman are without recorded parallel. Viewed from the opposite steep, when sullen clouds have lowered down upon Longaford Tor, and shut out all surrounding objects,—when mist-wreaths half shroud and half reveal their hoary branches and moss-covered trunks,—there is something almost unearthly in their aspect. Our native bard has however chosen the profound sunlit repose of a moorland noon (and it is only in the shelterless solitudes of the moor, amidst the quivering rack of a heated atmosphere, that the truthfulness and beauty of his imagery can be appretiated,) as most perfectly in keeping with the old mysterious grove which had lived perhaps more than a thousand years, but had not grown for centuries.

How heavily

That old wood sleeps in the sunshine ;—not a leaf
Is twinkling, not a wing is seen to move
Within it ;—but, below, a mountain stream,
Conflicting with the rocks, is ever heard,
Cheering the drowsy noon.

Of this grove,

This pigmy grove, not one has climb'd the air,
So emulously that its loftiest branch
May brush the traveller's brow. The twisted roots
Have clasp'd, in search of nourishment, the rocks,
And straggled wide, and pierc'd the stony soil :—
In vain, denied maternal succour, here
A dwarfish race has risen. Round the boughs
Hoary and feeble, and around the trunks,
With grasp destructive, feeding on the life
That lingers yet, the ivy winds, and moss
Of growth enormous. E'en the dull vile weed
Has fix'd itself upon the very crown
Of many an antient oak ; and thus, refus'd
By Nature kindly aid,—dishonour'd—old—
Dreary in aspect,—silently decays
The lonely wood of Wistman.

To add to this sketch, faithful and graphic as it is, would be superfluous and impertinent. It will be only necessary to state, that the account of the stature of the trees must be taken with due

allowance for poetical license. Ten feet might be more correctly given as the average height of the trees,—nor can the wood be said to be silently decaying. Although it is probable that the trees have not increased in height, for many an age, yet these dwarf patriarchs of the Forest produce bud, leaf, and acorn, in their season. The grove extends along the rocky declivity, about four hundred yards in length, and is less than one hundred in the widest part. If in other spots, led by the evidence of the pillar'd circle, the lustral basin, or the oracular logan, we are carried back in imagination, to the age and ceremonial of a mysterious and sanguinary ritual,—surely this antient oaken grove, whose age outdates tradition and history, and which is such an anomaly in physiology, as to baffle scientific calculation, might have itself been a favourite resort of the hierophants of Druidism, and might have sheltered the last of the Danmonian priesthood, who, in these secluded wilds of the west, might have found an asylum from the vengeance of the exasperated Roman. But it is not a little curious that among the aboriginal relics, in the immediate neighbourhood, no sacred circle, no avenue, no logan, is to be observed. Nor among all the parasitical plants which crowd the branches of these venerable oaks,—the most sacred tree of Druidism,—has the far-famed mistletoe ever been discovered.* Yet would this consideration not be sufficient to detract from the claims of Wistman to be regarded as the remnant of a Druidical grove, especially since we learn, from an antient contemporary writer,† that the mistletoe, even then, was scarce, and seldom to be met with, on the oak in particular. Hence, when found, they gather it with great devotion and many ceremonies. But the same author informs us that whatever the Druids found growing on the oak, parasitically, whether mistletoe or other plants, they esteemed as a Divine gift, and as a token that their god had made that tree his peculiar choice. If then the Wistman oaks were draped with the same exoteric garniture as at present, they must have been regarded by the Druids

* Although the mistletoe is plentifully produced on the apple tree in the neighbouring county of Somerset, it is remarkable that, in Devonshire, it is scarcely known as an indigenous plant. After numerous inquiries, I have never been able to discover more than one specimen of the mistletoe growing in Devon or Cornwall. On an apple tree, in the orchard at Higher Fordton, Crediton, in an estate belonging to James Wentworth Buller, Esq., of Downes, there is at this time a thriving specimen of this interesting plant, the greatest botanical curiosity probably in the county.

† *PLINY, Nat. Hist.*, lib. xvi. l4.

with peculiar veneration. Nor can "imagination body forth" a place more congenial to the sights and sounds of dark and blood-stained rites, than this dreary, narrow, rock-strewn glen of the Dart. We can imagine the appointed Druid, on the natural watch-tower afforded by the neighbouring tor, carefully marking the moment when the moon has completed the sixth day of her age,—when haply a misletoe has been found, in the grove below;—we follow him to the tree, and there see him clothed in his robe of pure white; and bearing the golden hook, reverently ascend the oak and cut the plant, which is received by the assistant priests below with every demonstration of gladness and awe.

Wistman's Wood is just such a place as the holy prophet of the Most High describes, as one of the scenes of the idolatrous orgies of the Israelites. Here are the oaks, here "the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks" where they sacrificed their children,—here "the smooth stones of the stream among which was their portion." In this spot too, might the Roman bard have found his original of the grove, which he depicts as consecrated to the mystic ceremonies of Druidism.

"Lucus erat longo nunquam violatus ab ævo,
Obscurum cingens connexis æra ramis,
Et gelidas alte summotis solibus umbras.
Hunc non ruricolæ Panes, nemorumque potentes
Silvani Nymphæ que tenent, sed barbara ritu
Sacra Deum, structæ sacris feralibus aræ
Omnis et humanis lustrata cruoribus arbor." *

LUCAN.

The explorer of Wistman's Wood, should tread its rocky labyrinth with some caution in summer, lest he should encounter

* "Not far away, for ages past, had stood
An old unviolated sacred wood;
Whose gloomy boughs, thick interwoven, made
A chilly, cheerless, everlasting shade;
There, not the rustic gods nor satyrs sport,
Nor Fauns and Sylvens with the Nymphs resort;
But barbarous priests some dreadful Power adore,
And lustrate every tree with human gore." ROWE.

Nicolas Rowe, the translator of Lucan, is alleged by some, (as observed by Mrs. Bray, *Tamar and Tary*, vol. i., p. 98,) to have been born at Lamerton, near Tavistock, of which parish his father was vicar. His version of this classic description of a Druidical grove, (as that of a Devonshire poet,) may be read with additional interest.

somewhat unpleasant testimony to the accuracy of the resemblance, in another particular noticed by the bard of the Pharsalia :—

Roboraque amplexos circumfluxisse dracones.

Like many other sheltered glens, strewn with moorstone, Wistman's Wood has an evil reputation among the country people, as abounding with noxious reptiles. It was accordingly represented to Mrs. Bray, by a neighbouring moor-farmer, in the genuine vernacular, as "a *whist* old place sure enough, and as full of adders as can be." The notion of rendering these reptiles harmless, by charming them with an ashen wand, which still obtains among our peasantry, is pronounced, by this lady, as "nothing less than a vestige of the customs of Druid antiquity." We have already noticed the evident connexion between Druidism and the Ophite rites, as traced in the Dracontia, or serpent-temples, and in other particulars, and have seen that these were probably corruptions of the purer forms of Arkite worship. The celebrated *anguinum*, or serpent's egg, may also be mentioned, as bearing upon the subject, since it is alleged by Davies, to have reference to Arkite mysteries. The rock-strewn glen, —the dwarfish, mysterious looking grove, its growth as if suddenly paralyzed by some malignant spell,—the dark river flowing beneath,—the hut-circles, pillars, and cairns on the neighbouring heights,—all forcibly lead to the conclusion that we are wandering amidst scenes congenial to the spirit of Druidism, and polluted of old by the sanguinary rites of that mystic and terrible superstition. From Wistman's Wood, we return by a path along the eastern bank of the Dart, to the inn at Two Bridges, and there close our excursion through the central parts of the Forest.

On setting out for our next excursion northwards, we shall pass the little river Cowsic at its confluence with the Dart, immediately below Bairdown Hill, a long ridge of high ground with a series of tors, along the summit, known by the names of Bairdown Tor, Lidford and Devil Tor. There is nothing of particular mark or interest in these tors, nor on the neighbouring common, except Bairdown Man, a rude granite obelisk, (similar to those already described,) eleven feet in height and eight feet in girth. In this popular designation of the rock-pillar, we shall doubtless discover the original term Maen, and shall find in Bairdown Man another

specimen of the Maen hir, or Long Upright Stone. Bairdown Hill is peninsulated by the Dart on the east, and by the Cowsic on the west. On the latter stream, near the confluence, we shall observe the thriving plantations referred to by Dr. Moore, (*Appendix*, No. ii., p. 212,) in proof of the agricultural capabilities of the more sheltered parts of the moorlands. To the improvements at Bairdown Farm, commenced by the late Mr. Bray, may be attributed much that has been done to reclaim portions of the moor; but it must be admitted that the sheltered dell, on the western side of the down, presented facilities which are not to be met with in less favoured situations. The farm is now in the possession of Mr. Frean, of Plymouth, who, as it has been already remarked, is successfully engaged in agricultural improvements in this part of the Forest.

But the tourist will find "metal more attractive" in tracing the course of the stream, as it foams along amidst the huge blocks of granite with which its channel is studded, until he comes to the antient bridge, by which it is crossed, in the dell below Bairdown Farm. Our best acknowledgments are due to the provident care of some lover of antiquity, (I presume the Rev. E. H. Bray,) for the effectual manner in which it has been preserved from injury, by iron braces which hold together the granite blocks. It is in excellent preservation, and, though on a smaller scale than some others, is not the less interesting as a specimen of British architecture. It consists of five openings; it is thirty-seven feet in length, and somewhat less than four feet in average breadth. The roadway is scarcely three feet and a half from the water, under ordinary circumstances.

We leave the vale of the Cowsic, and proceed over the common westward to a clam, or single-stone bridge, thrown over the Blackbrook, a stream which rises below Great Mistor, and falls into the West Dart between Two Bridges and Prince Hall. At a short distance from this primitive bridge, in a rushy swamp, is a structure of mediæval antiquity, which has excited some speculation, and no little discussion, as to the date which should be assigned for its erection. This is Fice's Well, thus commemorated by the writer in Blackwood's Magazine, quoted above, (*Preface*, p. ii.) "What a strange little edifice! Interior and sides of granite. Inscription, (which must be a lie,) 1168." The inscription which has given rise to the supposition that the well was erected in the twelfth century, is on the front

edge of the cover-stone; but whilst an unpractised observer might have misread the second figure of the date for 1, it is difficult to imagine how any one who had been conversant with similar inscriptions could have been so misled. The letters are in low relief, inscribed in a kind of panel on the face of the stone above the well, and there is no doubt that the true date is 1568. The cover-stone is three feet nine by three feet three, the opening about two feet square, and the well scarcely three feet in depth.

In 1827, we read the date without difficulty as 1568, and it is scarcely probable that the correspondent of Blackwood, who wrote in 1833, would have found it so much obliterated, in the course of six years, as to have mistaken 5 for 1, unless he had been previously led to suppose that the date was 1168. Mr. Bray, who examined it in 1831, justly remarks that it would appear more or less distinct, according as it might happen to be viewed in full sunshine or in shadow. This author assigns good reasons for supposing that the true designation is Fitze's and not Fice's Well. "I think it most likely that Fitze's Well was constructed by John Fitz, the old lawyer and astrologer of Fitzford, whose traffic with the stars, in foretelling the fate of his only son, is still the theme of tradition." In addition to the evidence adduced by Mr. Bray, from old records, in confirmation of this conjecture, Mrs. Bray records the following legend of the origin of Fice's Well, which is too interesting to be omitted.

"John Fitz the astrologer and his lady, were once *pixy-led*, whilst riding on Dartmoor. After long wandering in the vain effort to find the right path, they felt so fatigued and thirsty, that it was with extreme delight they discovered a spring of water, whose powers seemed to be miraculous; for no sooner had they satisfied their thirst, than they were enabled to find their way through the moor towards home, without the least difficulty. In gratitude for this deliverance, and the benefit they had received from the water, old John Fitz caused the stone memorial in question, bearing the date of the year, to be placed over the spring, for the advantage of all *pixy-led* travellers. It is still considered to possess many healing virtues."

Following the course of the Blackabrook downwards, we shall observe just below the Plymouth road, near Prince Town, a Cyclopean bridge of two openings, of smaller dimensions, but of similar

character to those already described. Should the tourist be anxious to examine the agricultural improvements made by the late Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, at Tor Royal,* a short walk will bring him there. He will also have an opportunity of visiting the celebrated War Prison, at Prince Town, (described in *Appendix*, No. vii.,) as well as Messrs. Johnson's extensive granite quarries at Fogginton. But the antiquary, following the Tavistock road to Rendlestone, will proceed along the highway, to examine the large and interesting group of aboriginal relics near Merivale Bridge, at the spot popularly known in the neighbourhood, as the Plague Market. Here it is traditionally reported, during a pestilence which prevailed at Tavistock, (supposed by Mr. Bray to have been in 1625, when the burials in the parish register amounted to 522,) provisions were brought for sale from the neighbouring country, at a safe distance from the infected precincts of the town.

But to whatever purpose these venerable monuments might have been applied, there can be no doubt that, originally, they were erected by the earliest inhabitants of our island, and that here will be found the remains of one of the most important aboriginal settlements in the west. At our visit, in 1827, we found, in addition to the avenues, or parallelithons, and sacred circles, specimens of almost all the other monuments of aboriginal antiquity. The town, or village, is within half-a-mile of the river Walkham, which is crossed by Merivale Bridge in the valley below. Its site is on the slope of the common, inclining to the south-west, and the ground over which the circular foundations of houses are scattered, is of considerable extent.

But among all other relics, the parallelithons will immediately strike the observer as the characteristic feature of the place. By the learned explorer of Carnac, they would be described as undoubted parts of a *Dracontium*, or serpent-temple, but whether their presumed Ophite character be admitted or not, there can be little doubt that they were constructed by our Pagan forefathers, for the purposes of religious worship. Their direction is towards the river, and they

* Tor Royal was entirely formed by him in 1798, with its adjoining fields, plantations, and garden, to which there was no road when he undertook the work, but he soon made one, as well as another for uniting the Plymouth with the Tavistock road. In short, to Sir Thomas all the modern improvements on Dartmoor must be referred.—*Notes to CARRINGTON'S Dartmoor.*

are in immediate connexion with sacred circles; the northern terminating in one circle, and the southern having another at mid-length. It will also be observed that they are in apparent relative connexion with a large sacred circle and lofty maen on the south. From these circumstances, the avenues will afford the best central station for describing the position of the several objects which will engage the attention of the antiquary.

These avenues run east and west parallel to each other, one hundred and five feet apart; the longest, eleven hundred and forty-three feet, the other nearly eight hundred. The former has the circle in the centre, and at either extremity a stone of larger dimensions than those in the lines. The western half of this parallelithon is divided at mid-length by a higher stone, and ends with two stones which have been thrown down. About twenty-four yards from the south avenue is a small dilapidated cairn; and one hundred yards south, a circle sixty-seven feet in diameter, consisting of ten stones. Near this is a fine specimen of the maen, or rock-pillar, described above, (p. 40,) and near the avenues, the ruins of a prostrate cromlech. The quoit, ten feet six by five feet four, has been dislodged from its three supporters. N.E. by N. of the avenues is a Cyclopean inclosure, or pound, differing essentially from Grimspound and others, in the construction of the wall; this consisting chiefly, though not entirely, of upright stones, while in many other examples they are rudely piled together. Advantage has been taken of the natural position of some huge blocks in forming this singular fence, the form of which approaches, though imperfectly, to a circle, the diameter of which is one hundred and seventy-five feet. At the upper, or east end, is a vast block, large enough to form one of the sides of an interior rectangular inclosure; having remains of walls at right angles, suggesting the idea of a resemblance to the adytum within the Druidical circle near Keswick. Thirty feet from this inclosure, a large quoit-like stone, sixteen feet by nine feet eight, and three others, have all the appearance of supporters, with their impost,—the ruins probably of a second cromlech of very large dimensions. There are hut-circles within and immediately without the inclosure, which are of a large size, as well as many others throughout the town. The ruins extend about a mile along the side of the hill, from the highest point of which Great Mistor majestically

overlooks the whole, and may therefore with perfect propriety claim the right of giving name to this curious and interesting monument of the aboriginal occupancy of our island, as the Mistor town, or village, since the perambulators also describe this part of the Forest as Mistor moor.

As we have again reached the line of perambulation, let us follow its direction as it passes from North Hessay Tor to Mistor Pan.* The designation, thus employed by the perambulators, was evidently adopted by them from popular usage. Hence it is clear that the singularly perfect rock-basin on the summit of Mistor, has existed in its present state for centuries, and has been regarded as the characteristic feature of the tor, from time immemorial. It can therefore scarcely be deemed a forced inference, if (taking into account the information we possess with regard to Druidical rites, and the existence of other relics, which are known to belong to the period of Druidism,) we conclude that Mistor Pan is an artificial excavation of high antiquity, and can scarcely be attributed to the action of the elements, and the disintegration of the granite block, in this particular part. The basin is in a remarkably perfect state, three feet in diameter, eight inches deep, and with its perpendicular sides and flat bottom, suggesting to the moormen the idea of one of their dairy milk-pans, hewn out of the massive rock.

In our ascent to the top of Great Mistor, we shall pass an antient stream-work on the side of the hill of considerable extent. We shall also observe Little Mistor, in our progress, which may be noticed for its presenting a rude resemblance to a vase of colossal magnitude. On reaching Mistor Pan we shall command a magnificent prospect along the western border; but among the many interesting objects which open to the view, Vixen Tor and the vale of the Walkham immediately below, will not fail to arrest the attention. Looking down the woodland gorge, between Walkhampton and Sampford Spiney, the eye at length rests upon that part of the noble estuary of the Tamar above Saltash, where it expands into a broad lake at the confluence of the Tavy with its waters, near Beer Ferrers. To the voyager up the Tamar, when he arrives abreast of Warleigh

* From thence linyallie to another Histworthie, and so from thence linyallie through the midst of Mistor moore, to a rock called Mistorpann. *Perambulation*, 1606.

Point, and opens Maristow, Mistor rises with all the grandeur of a genuine mountain in the purple distance, nor could a more favourable point of view perhaps be chosen, for giving a stranger a just impression of the elevation of our Dartmoor hills* than this part of the Tamar estuary, or the Cornish bank of the river on the north precincts of the town of Saltash.

Leaving the summit of Mistor, we shall reach the banks of the Walkham immediately below, by a steep descent, and finding our way across its rocky channel, shall scale the opposite ridge, on which, in a line parallel to the course of the river, rise a series of conspicuous and remarkable tors. The northernmost of these is Rolls Tor, or Roose Tor, next to which is Great Stapletor; Middle Stapletor is farther south, and Little Stapletor is on the declivity near an antient stream-work of large extent. Seen from Roborough Down, and some other points southward, these tors have a strong resemblance to castellated ruins, and, on a nearer examination, will be found to present many features of much interest. Some of the component masses are granite slabs bearing the appearance of a cromlech quoit, or impost. Other blocks appear to be so marvellously poised, as to be ready to be toppled down by the impulse of the first upland storm; and one has been thought to be a tolmen.† On the N.W. pile of Great Stapletor is a rock-basin, sixteen inches in diameter, and on Little Stapletor, near the edge of the highest and largest block is another, two feet in diameter.

Continuing our southward course, we shall cross the road from Tavistock to Two Bridges, leaving Merivale Bridge in the valley on the left. From hence we shall observe Vixen Tor, not forming the crest of an eminence as is more frequently the case, but rising majestically from the common, near the steep banks of the Walkham, about a mile below Merivale Bridge. On a nearer approach, we shall remark the resemblance which it bears to the Egyptian sphynx, when beheld from a particular point of view. Fronting the river the huge masses of which the tor is composed are piled up tier after tier, in a rude but noble facade, divided into three compartments by perpendicular

* Height of Mistor, 1760 feet, as deduced by Mr. Mc. Lauchlan from data obtained during the Trigonometrical Survey. DE LA BECHE.

† The Rev. E. H. Bray unhesitatingly pronounces it to be a tolmen. "On the same group of rocks is a singular Druidical monument, or tolmen, for such I am convinced it is." *Tamar and Tavy*, vol. i., p. 242.

fissures, through which an ascent to the summit can be effected, whereon appearances of rock-basins will be observed. The river-front faces directly south, and this lofty rock is traditionally reported to have been resorted to in past times for astronomical purposes. Vixen Tor, whether considered in itself, or with reference to the striking scenery of which it forms the central object, is one of the most interesting in the moorland district. The vale of the Walkham presents a long-drawn mountain defile, stretching away to the south. On the acclivity beyond Merivale Bridge eastward, is the aboriginal town, above described, where the admirer of Scott's truthful pictures of natural scenery may trace the main features of the Black Dwarf's forlorn retreat on Mucklestane Moor. There is "the huge column of unhewn granite raising its massy head on a knoll near the centre of the heath, and the ground strewed, or rather encumbered, with many large fragments of stone of the same consistence with the column, which, as they lay scattered over the waste, were popularly called the Gray Geese of Mucklestane Moor." And down the stream southward, near Ward Bridge and Huckworthy Bridge, the river, rock, and wood scenery is of the most fascinating description. Should the tourist recross the Walkham, and follow the windings of the Plymouth and Dartmoor railway, as it sweeps round the opposite hill by King Tor and Crip Tor, he will be abundantly repaid by a succession of views of wide extent and varied interest. Near the point where the railway crosses the Plymouth and Prince Town road, he will be struck with the peculiarly fine grouping of the tors, as he looks towards the N.E. with the lofty steeple of Walkhampton rising conspicuously from the acclivity in the foreground. Returning by Walkhampton, he will leave the steep lane leading to the church, and crossing a fine old moorstone stile, will find a pathway along the fields, which commands the vale of the Walkham at some of the most picturesque points. Far inferior as the accompanying mountain elevations confessedly are, yet, in all other respects, the scenery of this lovely glen may dispute the palm with the most celebrated spots of North Wales or the Lakelands. This conviction will be deepened by every step we take in the direction of Ward Bridge, by which we shall cross the river, and having made a detour N.E. over the common, to notice the rude time-worn cross called Beckamoore Cross, near a rivulet on the plain, shall mount the hill half-a-mile north of

Sampford Spiney church, to visit Pewtor Rock, a frontier eminence and one of the most interesting of all the moorland tors.

Pewtor is traditionally regarded as a Druidical court of judicature, probably from the peculiar conformation of the granite masses whereof it is composed. Raised by the hand of nature, these masses form two divisions; that on the east consists of four piles of rock, standing at the four cardinal points, like huge bastions, connected on the eastern and western sides by a rude breastwork or curtain, but open to the north and south. On the north-west pile is a series of rock-basins, irregularly disposed over the surface of the granite mass. One on its northern margin is complete, and is furnished with a lip, or spout, calculated to pour the water over the edge. This basin communicates with a second, much broken, which has a like communication with the third, of a more oval figure, and is placed east of the second, on the verge of the rock. Near the western edge of the same mass, but detached from the others, is a fourth basin, two feet in diameter and eleven inches deep. Standing in the area of this hypæthral judgment-court, and looking southward, the natural piles of mimic masonry form the frame of a landscape of great extent and beauty, comprehending the bold uplands of Roborough, the confluence of the Tavy and Tamar, and the Cornish hills on the west. From hence a pleasant walk of two miles and a half over Whitchurch Down, will bring us to Tavistock, where we shall close our excursion at the Bedford Hotel, and the traveller must be fastidious indeed, who would complain of the accommodation he will find, at one of the best inns, in one of the most interesting country towns, in the west of England.

Nor will the explorer of Dartmoor forget that Tavistock is one of the stannary towns, and that perhaps on the very spot where he now "takes his ease in his inn," the earliest printed copy of the stannary laws was struck off, a printing press having been established in Tavistock Abbey soon after the introduction of the art of printing into England. The inn is built within the antient precincts of the monastery, nor will the antiquary depart on his next moorland excursion without examining the existing remains of the largest and most magnificent abbey in Devonshire. The noble gate-house and adjacent buildings on the north-east,—“the ivied abbey wall along the very brink of the Tavy, with rampart, battlement, and parapets,—the still-

house tower, and the turret known as Betsy Grimal's tower, within the vicarage premises, are among the most interesting vestiges of the antient grandeur of this once famous monastery, which continued to advance in wealth and dignity until its abbots took their place among the mitred peers of the realm. The spacious church, with its lofty steeple, under which will be observed the unusual feature of an open arched passage, will also attract the traveller's attention, who will not fail to commend the manner in which the interior has been lately renovated. The old ungainly pews have all been removed and have been replaced by oak seats of appropriate character.

At the western extremity of the town, just above the antient mansion of Fitzford, the tourist will obtain a most pleasing view of Tavistock and its immediate neighbourhood. The town, with the church and abbey buildings, and some felicitously grouped trees, form conspicuous objects in front; on the right, the Tavy flows vigorously down the vale, while a circling range of hills and tors form a noble background. As a central point for visiting the various objects of picturesque and antiquarian interest with which this part of Devonshire abounds, Tavistock cannot be surpassed. Many of the antiquities of Dartmoor in the Western Quarter, the moorland villages of Marytavy and Petertavy, the glens of the Walkham, Dedham Bridge, Buckland Abbey, the picturesque hamlet of Milton, Maristow on the Tavy, Morwell Grange, Morwell Rocks, Calstock church, the Weir Head, Newbridge and Endsleigh on the Tamar, Brentor church, Lydford Bridge, waterfalls and castle, are all within a circle of five or six miles radius.

As a more detailed description of this interesting town and neighbourhood would be incompatible with our plan, so might it be deemed supererogatory, if not presumptuous, by those who are aware how elaborately the subject has been treated by Mrs. Bray, the talented authoress of the *Letters to the Laureate*, and of many popular tales founded on the legendary lore, and descriptive of the romantic scenery of the west. In the former work are embodied many valuable contributions on antiquarian subjects by the Rev. E. A. Bray, a gentleman who also as vicar of the parish, has displayed a laudable zeal for the preservation of the antiquities of his native town.

Tavistock and the vicinity are replete with deeply-interesting

associations of the olden time, and of poetic lore. Mason has placed the scene of his *Elfrida* at Harewood,* on the banks of the Tamar, but the accuracy of his poetic *venue* has been questioned in the *Letters to Southey*, where it is contended that Prince is correct in stating that Æthelwold was killed at Wilverley (since Warlwood) in Dartmoor, and that therefore the memorable hunt took place in that Forest, where there is still a place called Willsworthy not far from Tavistock. But another fair authoress, to whom the "green lawns and mantling woods and winding river" of Harewood on the Tamar, are endeared as the home of her youth, thus modestly advances its claims.

Yet haply judg'd they rightly, who here placed
In this remote peninsular retreat,
The scene of Edgar's hidden loves, where dwelt
The beauteous yet unlovely dame, whose false
Aspiring heart betray'd to death her lord.

But admonished by her timely strain, let us turn from Earl Orgar and the gigantic Ordulph—from the ambitious *Elfrida* and the ill-starr'd Æthelwold, to our main object, for, as she aptly proceeds,

Yonder ridge
Of Dartmoor's pinnacles afar descried
And towering high into the azure air
Recalls the mind from scenes of human strife
And guilt and warfare, and each lowly thought
Creeping along the littleness of life,
To rove upon the vast and boundless range
Of the Eternal Hills.

Scenes and Sketches in Cornwall. Tavistock, 1844.

Passing forth from the town, along the pleasant causeway, between the embattled abbey-wall and the river, and leaving Guile Bridge, already commemorated, on the right, we shall depart from the town eastward, by the new Okehampton road, through the valley of the Tavy. In a neighbouring vale, which

lyes extended to the north
Of Tavy's streame,

* The seat of Sir W. S. Trelawney, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. A lovely spot, ever connected in my own mind, with pleasing associations and gratefully remembered kindnesses.—S. R.

where

Two high-brow'd rocks on eyther side begin
As with an arch to close the valley in,

we shall be interested in tracing the resemblance to the original sketch by Browne, a Devonshire poet, who, according to Prince, was born at Tavistock, A.D. 1590.

“The swains,
By the tradition from their sires deriv'd,
Call'd it sweet INA's coombe.”

The description occurs in his principal work, *Britannia's Pastorals*, where the Wallabrook, a neighbouring tributary of the Tavy, is also celebrated in Arcadian allegories, characteristic of the pedantic euphuism of the age. Browne, is better known by his caustic description of Lydford, and its jurisprudence, a copy of which, as graphically illustrating the manners and sentiments of our Devonshire ancestors, is inserted at the close of the work.

But we hasten onwards to the more immediate objects of our excursion, with the well-wooded grounds of Mount Tavy, bounded by the river, on our right. Crossing the stream at Harford Bridge, we shall make for Cocks Tor, a lofty frontier hill of trap-rock, where we shall notice several hut-circles. A rugged road at its foot, will lead us to Petertavy, which with its simple rustic church below the fine bold brow of Smearridge, its picturesque mill, mountain torrent and brawling cascades, will amply repay a visit. From hence, by an upland road through Cudliptown, with the Tavy murmuring along the hollow below, and White Tor on the right, we shall proceed to Stannaton Down, a hill strewed with granite masses and marked by a cairn. Turning south we shall traverse, not without difficulty, a tract of boggy land to Lints Tor, near the source of the Walkham, where are some imperfectly-defined traces of a trackway. Here, I presume, we again meet the Forest boundary, which we last marked at Mistor Pan, from thence it crosses the Walkham at the Hanging Rock, to Deadlake Head, which the Perambulators “think to be the next bound, called in the old records Mewborough.” But whatever difficulty there may be, in identifying the last-named bound-place, we shall have no hesitation in fixing the next, (described in the

Perambulation as Lintsburrow,) at South Lints Tor, to which the boundary-line next advances.

Leaving Lints Tor, and the Forest bounds, we proceed northwards to Furtor, in the North Quarter. We shall find, that by a gradual ascent from the Tavy, we have here attained one of the loftiest points on the moor, the approximate height of Furtor, above the sea-level, being given as no less than 2000 feet. We have also penetrated to the most secluded and inaccessible parts of our western desert. Vast tracts of morass, bog, and heath, stretch away on every side. Besides Furtor, few tors appear to break "the deep-felt monotony" of the dreary wilds around. Not a sheep-path or peat-stack gives token of the presence of man or beast; and the heath-fowl which you may occasionally spring from the heather, only prove that this, one of their last retreats, is seldom invaded by the sportsman. But haply twenty centuries ago, this solitary spot would seem to have been occupied by man. Perhaps a Druid recluse (if such there were) here found a place of studious retirement and meditation, where, at least, he would have enjoyed ample opportunities for pursuing one of the favourite sciences of his order, in the wide expanse of the starry heavens, commanded from the brow of Furtor.* The foundation of the structure is similar to that of the hut-circles in other parts, but in form it is elliptical, about fifty-feet in circumference. This aboriginal dwelling stands alone on the brink of one of the tributaries of the Tavy. No vestige of any other antient remains is near, except a cromlech in ruins, near the head of the river, about a furlong from its western bank. Although surrounded by many scattered blocks of granite, there can be little doubt as to the original intention of these four remarkable stones, which an experienced observer will readily distinguish from the surrounding masses lying in their natural position. The quoit, or impost, is about the ordinary dimensions, thirteen feet by five, and has fallen with its longest side in the ground. It is retained in a slanting position by the three original supporters, which appear to have yielded to the pressure of the superincumbent mass.

We now follow the stream of the Tavy downwards to Watern

* Multa præterea de sideribus, atque eorum motu, de mundi ac terrarum magnitudine de rerum natura, de deorum immortalium. *Cæs. Bell. Gall.*, lib. vi., cap. 14.

Oak and Western Redlake, a natural boundary, specified in the Perambulation, to which the line comes from Lints Tor. Between these two latter points, according to the Perambulators, the Western and Northern quarters meet. Near the same point, a considerable stream from Amicombe Hill, called Rattlebrook, falls into the Tavy, and forms the Forest boundary northward for some distance, to its head. Still following the course of the Tavy, downwards, we shall soon reach Tavy Cleave, a magnificent range of castellated tors with which Nature appears to have fortified this fine peninsular hill, while the rapid stream sweeps round the headland, and forms an effective moat to the Titanic citadel above.

These tors range in succession along the precipitous sides of a rock-strewn declivity. There are five principal piles, of which the third is the loftiest and most majestic; and the whole cliff presents a remarkable resemblance to the dilapidated walls of a time-worn edifice. Even on a nearer approach, the illusion is kept up by the whortle, heaths, and other plants flourishing in the interstices, so that the aspect of this mimic castle, is novel and peculiar. Imagination too, with little effort, may figure a natural outwork or barbican, in the lower pile, on the southern glacis, guarding the approach, and thus fortifying this inland promontory almost to the river's brink. The whole declivity being overspread with scattered masses of granite, stands in bold contrast with the grassy common on the opposite bank.

The bed of the Tavy presents in general, the usual rocky characteristics of the Dartmoor rivers, but immediately below the *cleave*, the stream flows for some distance, over a solid granite floor. The view down the moorland glen, with far off glimpses of the cultivated country beyond, will abundantly repay the tourist for scaling these natural ramparts, in his way to the neighbouring heights, along which we shall proceed westward to Gertor, or Great Tor, which crowns a bold eminence beetling over the Tavy, and is remarkable for its stratified character as contrasted with Tavy Cleave. If rock-basins are always to be ascribed to natural agencies, few tors would be more favourable to the production of such cavities, but none are to be found on any part of the rock. Between Tavy Cleave and Gertor we shall notice a hut-circle, with the jambs erect and the doorway facing the river. A trackline appears in connexion with this ruined dwelling. From hence, passing Great Tor, with the river for our

guide, we shall wend our way to Marytavy, another rural church amidst scenery pleasingly varied by homely objects and the bolder features of the moorland border, and returning to the turnpike road, shall close our excursion at Tavistock.

Leaving the town by the old Okehampton road, for our next excursion, we shall soon discern high on an insulated hill before us, the church and steeple of Brentor,* four miles from Tavistock, on the northern verge of Heathfield Down. Unlike the Dartmoor tors, Brentor is a volcanic eminence rising abruptly from the surrounding country. The church which crowns the summit, is said to owe its erection to the pious gratitude of one of those "who occupy their business in the great waters," in commemoration of his deliverance from the dangers of the stormy deep, and in fulfilment of a vow which in the time of peril he had made to build a church on the first land he might discover, should he be permitted to reach the shore in safety. This is said to have been Brentor, and here accordingly the votive shrine was erected by the grateful merchant. There is however a popular legend current in the neighbourhood, which reports that the church was intended to have occupied a more convenient site, but the design was frustrated by Satanic devices.

Of the existence of a church at Brentor there is a record so early as 1283, when it was known as St. Michael de Rupe; such lofty insulated sites, being considered as peculiarly appropriate to churches dedicated to St. Michael the archangel. The structure, built on the verge of the precipice, is small and low, but solid and durable, well calculated to brave the storms which so frequently and fiercely beat upon this rock-founded house of prayer. The roof is open, the exterior battlemented, and some traces of Early English architecture will be detected by the ecclesiastical antiquary. Probably at the same period that the beacon flamed from its heights, Brentor was fortified, as there are some appearances of earthworks on the upper part of the hill. In surveying the varied panorama which this lofty eminence commands, the eye glancing southward over the grove-crowned heights of Mount Edgcumbe and Maker, will rest on the

* Brent is supposed by many authors to be derived from the German *brennen* or the Anglo-Saxon *byrnan* to burn. No doubt in former times this conspicuous eminence was used as a beacon, and that here, as on many other similar heights, signal-fires were kindled, as a ready mode of telegraphic communication.

expanse of the distant Channel, in search of the spot from whence land so anxiously sought for, could be descried by the storm-stricken mariner.

Returning to the highway, we shall reach the banks of the Lyd at about three miles distance from Brentor, and find ourselves in the midst of scenery characteristic of the immediate neighbourhood, and in many respects peculiar to this part of the moorland border. Through a rural homestead we pass onward to the copse, and by a steep zigzag pedestrian path, descend to the celebrated Lydford Fall. The stream, a tributary to the Lyd, turns the neighbouring mill and falls over a slaty precipice, about one hundred and ten feet in height. Midway a ledge of rock opposes a temporary obstacle to the headlong stream, and enhances the picturesque effect. In one of the happiest of his out-door sketches, Carrington thus graphically paints the scene.

At once, the stream, all light and music, springs
From the bold bank. Yet not in one broad sheet
It leaps the dark majestic cliff—a rock
Divides it, and the bright and broken flood
Impetuous descends in graceful curves
To mingle with the foaming world below,
While sparkling in the midday beam, a shower
Of spray, for ever hovering, bathes the plants
That love the mountain and the stream.

To view this cascade with advantage, it should be visited in winter or after a summer storm, as the stream is inconsiderable at other times. But the accompanying features of the scene will never disappoint. The spot is one of calm woodland seclusion, at the confluence of four deep and narrow glens, so that when we stand at the foot of the waterfall, we are surrounded by “insuperable height of loftiest shade.” Leaving this fascinating scene, we thread our adventurous way along a tangled and “bosky” defile, guided by the darkly-flowing Lyd; but before we reach Lydford Bridge, shall find it necessary to climb the precipitous bank, as the channel there is formed in a narrow ravine, through which the river struggles with a fretful murmuring sound. The rocky sides of the chasm are con-

nected by the arch which is thrown over the river, at the height of sixty or seventy feet from the water. The similarity observed in "the rifted banks of Lyd" has given rise to the supposition, that the ground has been rent asunder by some terrible convulsion of nature; whether this conjecture be well-founded or not, the scene at Lydford Bridge is one of great singularity and uncommon interest. Unlike other rivers, which glide through open plains or sunny valleys, the Lyd forces its darkling way at the bottom of a deep rocky fissure. We have only to substitute the name of Lyd for Tees, and Scott's vivid description of the northern stream will apply with striking accuracy to our own.

Where Tees full many a fathom low
Wears with his rage, no common foe ;
For pebbly bank, nor sand-bed here,
Nor clay mound, checks his fierce career ;
Condemn'd to mine a channell'd way
O'er solid sheets of marble grey.

The tourist who contents himself with the view from the parapet, without venturing to explore the ravine below, as well as above the bridge, will not duly appreciate the singular impressiveness of this romantic scene, the Devil's Bridge of Devon. An author,* unbiassed by local predilections, thus warmly but faithfully describes the scenery which greets the eye on the banks of the Lyd. "At a little distance below the arch, the fissure gradually spreads its rocky jaws; the bottom opens and instead of the dark precipices which have hitherto overhung and obscured the struggling river, it now emerges into day, and rolls its murmuring current through a winding valley, confined within magnificent banks, darkened with woods, which swell into bold promontories or fall back into sweeping recesses till they are lost to the eye in the distance. Thickly shaded by trees, which shoot out from the rent, the scene at Lydford Bridge is not so terrific as it would have been had a little more light been let in upon the abyss, just sufficient to produce a "darkness visible." As it is however, the chasm cannot be regarded without shuddering, nor will the

* WARNER. *Walks through the Western Counties.*

stoutest heart meditate unappalled upon the dreadful anecdotes connected with the spot.”*

Clambering along the bank above the bridge, and following the course of the river upwards, about a mile, we shall reach Kate's Fall, where the Lyd, fresh from the neighbouring moor, bursting through a rocky fissure, and rushing down a steep descent, forms a cascade, in some respects finer than the more celebrated Lydford waterfall. We cross the stream, above the cascade, and through a lane on the opposite side shall soon reach the once important borough of Lydford, the principal vestiges of whose former greatness, will be found in the keep of the antient castle, which rises conspicuously on the west side of the present church-town.

But Lydford appears to have been a place of importance even before the date of its castle.† “Yea doubtless,” writes Risdon, “in the Saxon heptarchy, it was a town of some note, that felt the furious rage of the merciless Danes,” by whom it was plundered and burnt in the same expedition, when Tavistock Abbey was destroyed by these marauding invaders. The castle was built subsequently to the Conquest, and by a charter of Edward I. Lydford was appointed as the stannary prison, where alone all offenders against the stannary laws, were to be incarcerated. Here, accordingly, Strode, member of parliament for Plympton, an ancestor of George Strode, Esq. of Newnham Park, was imprisoned in 1512, for his exertions in parliament, in procuring an act to prevent injury to harbours by mining operations. For this he was brought before the Stannators at their court at Crockern Tor, and having refused to pay a heavy fine, according to their sentence, was confined in Lydford Castle. The

* A gentleman from the neighbourhood of Exeter, ruined by gambling, is said to have crossed the moor on horseback to this place, where dismounting, madly bent on self-destruction, he leaped down the terrific chasm. In a deep pool above the bridge, a maniac is also said to have drowned himself. But the scene is also associated with an incident to which the mind gladly turns from the contemplation of madness and crime. In our present excursion we have traversed the old highway leading from Plymouth through Tavistock to Okehampton. A benighted horseman, once travelling this road amidst the din and fury of a moorland tempest, on approaching Lydford, found as he pressed briskly forward, that his horse made a sudden leap, for which he could not account, as there was no apparent obstacle in the way. In the morning however all was explained when he heard with astonishment, (and it may be hoped, with thankfulness also,) that the bridge having been swept away by the raging torrent during the previous night, had not his horse gallantly cleared the chasm at a bound, he must have inevitably perished in the yawning abyss.

† For various interesting particulars of the castle, borough, manor and parish of Lydford, the reader is referred to the valuable historical documents at the end of the book.

sufferings of this gentleman, and of other victims of these arbitrary enactments, in such a "hainous, contagious and detestable place," as this dungeon was commonly reported to be, must have been great. Both the jurisprudence and the prison appear to have obtained an unenviable notoriety about this period. A proverb in Ray's Collection doubtless embodied the popular opinion,

First hang and draw,
Then hear the cause is Lydford law.

But Browne, our Tavistock poet, has described the castle and borough of Lydford, "so very exactly and facetely in running metre," as old Westcote phrases it, that I have inserted the poem *in extenso*, at the end of the Appendix.

The expense incurred by Prince Charles, as Duke of Cornwall, in repairing the castle, appears to have done little to retard the ruin, to which it seems to have been doomed in Browne's time. A survey of the borough of Lydford, gives an interesting but lamentable account of its dilapidated state in 1650.*

The castle, on the north and west sides, is defended by a deep hollow with precipitous banks, winding down to the glen of the Lyd. On the eastern side stands "the little church," commemorated by Browne, where there is a curious font, of such antique simplicity that it may have been coeval with the departed glories of Lydford, in Saxon times.

Leaving Lydford, we shall direct our course to the mail road from Tavistock to Okehampton, where the tourist will find, at a wayside hostel, called the Dartmoor Inn, refreshment and sufficient accommodation for the night should he require it. Or, if disposed to pursue his researches, he will cross the high road, and entering the commons at the back of the inn, will pass over Highdown eastward, to meet the Lyd once more, as it comes foaming down from Noddon. On the brink of the river, in the vale below Doctor, which bears almost due east, is the ruined foundation of an antient hut, peculiar both in form and construction. The form is rectangular, and the stones of which the basement is composed, instead of being fixed erect in the ground, edge to edge, are set face to face, and in the present

* See Appendix—Historical Documents.

ruined condition of the building, have declined from their original erect position. The hut is twenty-six feet long by thirteen wide, and stands apart from any other antient remains.

Having crossed the Lyd, we shall mount the opposite hill and find ourselves in the midst of a fine group of tors. Between the Lyd and a tributary rivulet, Little Lints Tor, Armstor, Brator and Doctor form a range, in a line almost north and south. East of the rivulet, Links Tor, Dannagoat, Clatter, Sharp Tor and Hare Tor, form another series almost parallel to the former, and fortify the ridge which ends in the promontory at Tavy Cleave. At the foot of this ridge on the east, the Rattlebrook pursues its noisy way to the Tavy, and tracing its course upwards, we shall once more return to the Forest bounds, which proceed northwards from the head of Rattlebrook to Stengator, or Steincator, with the lofty dorsal ridge of Amicombe, high on the right. Passing over its northern extremity, we shall notice Brandscomb's Loaf, Shelstone Tor, and Sourton Tor, the latter rising above the little border church of that name. In our progress over this part of the moor, we shall meet with few antient monuments except some cairns on the surrounding heights.

From Stengator the boundary goes straight to the vale of the West Ockment, which it crosses at Sandyford, called also in the Perambulation, Longaford. From hence the boundary proceeds in a straight line to a place called High Wilhays, or Willinghayes, and from thence to West Miltor, skirting the eastern flank of Yestor.* Here we deviate from the line to scale its lofty peak, of which the approximate elevation has been calculated at two thousand and fifty feet, thus making it the highest point in the moor, and consequently in the whole south of England. From this Alpine height, the whole of the western and north-western districts of Devon, and a large extent of East Cornwall, lie mapped out before us. Towards the north-east, we look over the broad shoulder of Cosdon, to Raddon top and the higher points of country, between Crediton and Tiverton, whilst in the south-west, we descry the bold eminence of Hingston Down above Callington, and in front, stretch our gaze over Broadbury towards Holsworthy, Bude, and the Bristol Channel.

* Probably *East* tor is more correct. The change of E or H into Y, is common in the Devonshire vernacular. Thus we have Yeaffield for Heathfield, and Yeffier for Heifer, and Yaffull for Handful.

We shall find nothing worthy of special note at Miltor, and shall therefore leave the guidance of the Perambulators, to follow the course of a rivulet, which flowing down the hollow between Yestor and Miltor, falls into the West Ockment below Blackdown. The whole of this part of the moor is remarkably destitute of antient remains, and eastward of Yestor, is of the same dreary monotonous character as the vicinity of Cranmere Pool, to which it extends. The scenery on the West Ockment, in the deep glen at the foot of Black Tor, is grand and impressive, but will not long detain us from tracing the course of the river onwards, till it sweeps below the venerable ruins of Okehampton Castle, which occupy the summit and declivity of a rocky mound, about half-a-mile from the western entrance of the town, and full in view of the mail road to Cornwall. Above this eminence, thickly-clothed with foliage, the massy walls of the keep are seen to rise, with the most picturesque and happy effect. One lofty fragment appears ready to topple down headlong, at the first assault of the blustering tempests from the neighbouring wilds of Dartmoor; but from the durable qualities of the cement, it has withstood the fury of the elements, and may, we trust, long remain to add interest and beauty to this charming scene. The antiquary, with his thoughts reverting to the lordly barons, who once here held sway, the Baldwins of the Norman æra, and the Courtenays of the Plantagenet times, will enter from the east and trace the remains of the castle-gate and the moat, the base court and the chapel, and reach the square keep on the western side by a pathway overhung with trees. Embosomed in foliage,—its mouldering walls mantled with ivy, and surrounded by hills of varied form and hue, Okehampton Castle, in sunshine or in shower, “at morn or dewy eve,” will be always an object of pleasing interest, but like Melrose and other celebrated ruins, to see it in perfection the tourist should “visit it by the pale moonlight.”

To facilitate this object, we shall take up our quarters for the night at the White Hart, and before proceeding next morning on our final excursion, shall visit the most prominent objects of interest in this antient borough, which we shall observe is situated on the very verge of our moorland district, nestling beneath the bold brow of the once celebrated park, on a pleasant little plain, watered by the twin streams of the Ockment, which peninsulate a large portion of its

site and unite their waters just below the town. The two bridges in the main street, the chantry chapel near the east bridge, with its embattled steeple, and some old gabled dwellings, will not fail to attract our attention, nor shall we grudge our walk to the church, which occupies a commanding situation on the hill that rises above the town on the western side. The parish church of Okehampton, a spacious structure with a lofty pinnacled tower, forms a conspicuous and pleasing object amidst the surrounding scenery. It was accidentally destroyed by fire a few years since, but has since been restored, in excellent taste and with due regard to the accommodation of the parishioners.

Returning to the town, by a road in front of the vicarage lawn, we shall pass the entrance to Okelands, the modern mansion of Albany Savile, Esq., whose charming grounds are enlivened and adorned by the Ockment, which here flows onward to render its tribute to the Torridge, through picturesque banks overhung with luxuriant foliage. It has been conjectured by some writers that a Roman road ran in or near Okehampton, on its way from Exeter to Holsworthy and Stratton. One circumstance on which this supposition has been grounded, is indisputable, the existence of a Roman camp on Broadbury Common,* about five miles N.N.W. of Okehampton in the line which such a road would probably have taken. But the traces of a fortified post, and of a Roman road which have been supposed to exist in the park near Halstock, cannot safely be adduced in evidence, as we shall find in our progress in that direction. Proceeding southward from the town between the two Ockments, we shall enter the park by a rough road, which, as we ascend the hill, soon degenerates into a steep moor-track, chiefly used for bringing turf down from the commons and for driving cattle to pasture. A few veteran hollies of large growth, on the northern and western declivities, are almost the sole remains of the sylvan honours of the antient park of Okehampton, which was disafforested by Henry VIII. in 1589, at the same time that the castle was demolished.

* It can scarcely be doubted that Bradbury is a specimen of a Roman summer camp, on an extensive tract of table-land, in the parish of North Lew. The form is an oblong square, two hundred and sixty-six feet by two hundred and thirty-six, and the vallum is not more than eighteen feet in the highest part, on the outer slope. The names of Chester Moor, Scobchester and Wickchester which occur in the immediate neighbourhood, appear to indicate the presence of the Romans.

On this spot we are also reminded of the wild legend connected with Lady Howard's oak, still current in this part of Devonshire, and embodied in Mrs. Bray's tale of Fitz of Fitzford; nor is it improbable that there are some still whose superstitious fancy figures to them the doomed spectre of the once proud heiress, in her coach of bones, preceded by her skeleton hound, driving through the streets of Tavistock, at midnight, to bring a blade of grass from Okehampton Park to the gateway of Fitzford. Nor shall we omit to notice Fitz's Well, a spring on the ridge of the hill, which, according to the statement of the anonymous author of a concise but interesting account of the history and antiquities of Okehampton, "it was a custom till within a late period for young persons to visit on the morning of Easter day."* From this commanding spot we shall gain varied and favourable views of the town in the valley, the church on the eminence above, the mansion and groves of Okelands, the course of the Ockments, and the picturesque ruins of the castle. We shall here also appreciate the extent of the park, which stretching from the banks of the West Ockment in front of the castle, reaches to the channel of the eastern river, and forms the extreme northern foreland of the great Dartmoor waste, which we have been perambulating.

Passing over the brow of the hill to Blackdown, we reach the Forest boundary once more, beyond the verge of the park, at Rowtor, or Roughtor, to which eminence it comes in a direct line from West Miltor, the spot at which we left it in our last excursion. The line of perambulation then goes down the north-eastern declivity of Rowtor to Chapel Ford, at the confluence of the Blackaven water with the East Ockment, called by the Perambulators the ford which lieth in the east side of St. Michael's chapel of Holstock. Scarcely a vestige of this antient sanctuary now remains. "The storms of six centuries," says the author above cited, "have wrought their work in its destruction. Excepting the line of its foundations, now covered like the rest with green sward, and a path leading to the spot from Belstone, with its crossing place over the East Ockment, still called the Chapel Ford, there is little left to point where our forefathers worshipped."

The course of the river through this secluded glen presents a

* Account of the Barony and Town of Okehampton.

succession of scenes of romantic grandeur and wild magnificence. The river comes foaming down from the moors over a solid granite bed, in some places sufficiently steep to form a succession of waterfalls, and makes its way through a deep mountain gorge to Belstone Cleave, where it sweeps round the bold acclivity which forms the eastern boundary of the park. The hanging woods clothing the steep bank on the Okehampton side, are strikingly contrasted with the bare and rock-strewn declivity, which confronts them. Nor will the tourist reach this, the last definite bound-mark of the Forest, without confessing that in his whole perambulation he has seen no spot where the peculiar features of our moorland scenery are more felicitously combined than in this, the lonely glen of St. Michael of Halstock.

Crossing the river we shall mount the steep ascent towards Belstone Tor, and within a quarter of a mile, on its western slope, we shall observe the circle called in the neighbourhood Nine Stones, but which in reality consists of seventeen stones, erect, the highest of which is not more than two feet and a half from the ground. We shall climb the hill, and having noticed the fine series of tors, which rise from the rock-strewn ridge, between the watercourses of the Ockment and the Taw, shall mark the direction of the line of perambulation, from the Chapel Ford in a line to Cosdon beacon, the Hoga* de Cosdown of the Perambulators.

Having thus reached once more the point at which we commenced our wanderings round the Forest bounds, on the banks of the Taw, we shall return towards Okehampton, and pass in our way the moorland village of Belstone with its simple church and low sturdy tower, built as if to resist the fiercest onslaught of the mountain tempest. We shall regain the vale of the East Ockment, in front of Belstone Cleave and the sombre gorge through which that stream pours down into the valley on the north side of the park; and again crossing the stream, shall skirt the south bank in our return to Okehampton, and there terminate our last excursion.

* I am now satisfied that we should look in vain for a *place* named Hoga, and that it is to be sought for in the hill or height of Cosdon itself; the word corresponding with Heag, (*Ang. Sax.*) Hoog, (*Dutch*) Hoch, (*German*) &c. all implying altitude.

THE
APPENDIX.

APPENDIX,

No. I.

GEOLOGICAL VIEW OF DARTMOOR,

By EDWARD MOORE, M.D., F.L.S., late Secretary to the Plymouth Institution.

THIS mountain elevation is one of the many masses of granite rock, which have risen up through the various shales, slates, and sandstones, which constitute the geological surface of Devon and Cornwall. These latter had been, for a long period, considered as a peculiar formation, to which the undefined term of *Grauwacké*, or *Transition Rocks*, had been applied. Recent investigations, however, have led to the announcement, by Professor Sedgwick and Sir R. Murchison,* that the upper series, or culm measures, occupying principally the centre and north of Devon, belong to the carboniferous system; and that the lower series, extending throughout nearly the whole of South Devon and Cornwall, is equivalent to the old red sandstone of geological nomenclature. This latter view, first conjectured by many with hesitation, among the earliest of whom was Mr. John Prideaux, of Plymouth;† and respecting whom, Mr. Lonsdale‡ says, “full credit must be given to him, for placing part of the limestones in the old red sandstones”—was, at length, (after the investigation of its fossils by Mr. Lonsdale,) boldly asserted by Messrs. Sedgwick and Murchison, and is now admitted by nearly all geologists. To the entire system of rocks they have given the name of the “*Devonian System*,” which occupies a position intermediate between the carboniferous and Silurian systems. This class of rocks, stretching from Dartmoor to the South Coast, consists, in succession, of 1st, an indurated metamorphic group near the granite; 2nd, a great complex slate group with bands of limestone; 3rd, a coarse red arenaceous group; 4th, a great schistose deposit, dipping south, but at length reversed as it approaches, 5th, a mass of mica and chlorite slate, extending from the Start to Bolt-tail. Rocks of a similar character, consisting of five groups, also form the lower series on the North Coast of Devon

* *Phil. Mag.*, vol. xiv., p. 241, and *Geological Trans.* vol. v.

† *Trans. of Plymouth Institution*, p. 48. ‡ *Geological Trans.*, vol. v., p. 725.

beneath the culm measures.* Between this region and the granite, occurs the culmiferous series, occupying a vast trough and dipping away on both sides, from the rocks with which it is in contact. It is divided into two groups; the lower consisting of dark carbonaceous shales, sandstones, micaceous and siliceous flagstones, and calcareous shale with subordinate beds of black limestone; the upper shales and sandstones are generally thin-bedded; the former often indurated and containing beds of anthracite and fossil plants, &c., the latter are like coarse coal grits, sometimes assuming a conglomerate form, and containing pyrites and iron-stone. All these beds are much contorted, the flexures being considered by geologists, generally,† to be dependent on the protrusion of the granite, which has turned up their edges around. Sir Henry De la Beche observes, that the southern boundary of the carbonaceous system, runs along the edge of Dartmoor, from Tavistock to Holne Chase, (forty-six miles,) and, throughout this distance, the protrusion of the granite, has thrown up the edges of the beds, in some places nearly vertical;‡ yet, allowing this to have a certain influence, he doubts whether it is not necessary to seek some greater geological cause for the numerous contortions of the preexisting rocks. (p. 188.) The slates are traversed by greenstones, and other trap-rocks, and a band of trappean ash commences at Dunterton, and runs by Milton Abbot and Endsleigh to Grendon; and Brent Tor itself is a mass of conglomerated cinders. Large masses of trap form the elevated lands of Horndon, White Tor, Smearridge, Cock's Tor, &c. These igneous rocks have flowed, says Sir. H. De la Beche, during the accumulation of the sedimentary deposits around them; viz., the grits, shales, and slates of the carbonaceous series. This subject is more recently illustrated by Sir H. De la Beche, in the 1st vol. of *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain*—where it is shown that extensive volcanic action has occurred throughout the whole series of the paleozoic rocks, and the trappean ash such as is found at Brent Tor, he considers as the result of *sub-aerial* volcanos existing at that remote period of the earth's history, and prior to the eruption of the granite. The trap-bands skirting Dartmoor, seem as if thrust out of their original position by the protrusion of the granite—consequently this must have been of later formation than the trap; thus the venerable tors, which have for so long a period excited our admiration, as belonging to the mass of primæval foundations of the earth, are shown to be in geological sequence, posterior to the rocks, by which they are surrounded. The proofs of this are also manifest in coast sections, and other situations, where the junction of the granite and slates is readily seen; veins of granite are found penetrating the slates, and often large masses of the latter are insulated in them; and from the very minute strings in which they often terminate, we may be led to

* *Geological Proceedings*, vol. ii., p. 558.

† *Geological Trans.*, vol. v.

‡ *Report on Devon and Cornwall*, p. 109.

infer very considerable fluidity, on the part of the erupted masses in many parts of their confines. At St. Michael's Mount, Cape Cornwall, &c., these veins are seen, again penetrated by similar veins, showing that, during consolidation, cracks occurred, into which melted granite was again forced, as is seen at the Land's End district, and not unfrequently on Dartmoor. These are distinguished from elvans, by their tortuous course. Other marks of the fluid state of the granite, also constantly occur, where the neighbouring rock is altered in character, by the heated mass. Thus many of the gneissic rocks, in the vicinity of granite, are ascertained to be altered slate rocks; and the successive beds of the culm measures, abutting upon the N.W. of Dartmoor, become changed in structure; the siliceous bands are converted into quartz rock; the shales, into Lydian stone, compact felspar, porphyry, &c.* All of which point out its subsequent origin.

"The granite of Dartmoor," says De la Beche, "is in composition a mixture of quartz, felspar, and mica; the latter, either black or white. The felspar is most prevalent, and often occurs in large crystals, rendering the rock porphyritic.† It frequently appears as if stratified in beds, depending on its tendency to become fissured or jointed, when near the slates; or by weathering, as seen in the tors. On the coast, it often appears as piled, block upon block.

Elvans are granite dykes of differently aggregated constituents. On the south of Dartmoor, an elvan traverses Roborough Down,—it is a porphyry, composed of a felspathic-quartzose base, with quartz crystals, and may be seen in the valley between Milton and Maristow. A granitic elvan also occurs near Jump. On the north of Dartmoor, two elvans run in the carbonaceous series; one near South Zeal, the other through Lidbridge Ball to Hatherleigh: none have been noticed on the east of the moor.

In chemical composition, these granites and elvans are nearly similar, subject to minor variations arising from the presence or absence of schorl and talc.

A recent author‡ classifies granite according as its component minerals contain alkalies, or alkaline earths. Among the former he enumerates—

First. Ternary granites, formed of quartz, felspar, and bin-axal mica, all of which are deficient in earthly ingredients, but yield potash, soda, and lithia.

Second. Among the latter we have granitoid rocks, into which hornblende enters as a component part,—hornblende contains none of the alkalies, but abounds in magnesia and lime. Also granites with talc, chlorite or steatite, (instead of mica,) which contain magnesia. Also granites with tourmaline or schorl, which contain nearly equal quantities of silica and alumina and oxide of iron, traces

* SEDGWICK and MURCHISON.

† King Tor and many others on the S.W. of the moor are of this character.

‡ MR. WALLACE. *Geological Proceedings*, vol. iv., p. 193.

of the alkalies and earths, and some boracic acid. This last, or schorlaceous variety, is the prevailing granitoid rock of Cornwall and Devon, and is mostly found on the borders, at the junction with the slates. Often, indeed, a gradual passage may be traced from the ternary granite to schorl rock; the mica disappears first, though sometimes all four minerals are found in nearly equal proportions, then the felspar fades, leaving the quartz and schorl only: the latter often occurs in radiating nests in the quartz. Mr. Wallace is of opinion that ternary granite is the lowest accessible rock of the earth's crust, and that it has been protruded at different times, either solid or fluid; when the latter, it has been sometimes altered by a second fusion, and by mixture with other rocks of a sedimentary character through which it has passed. The fine grained varieties are probably second fusions; so when it becomes porphyritic, and also when elvans occur, (which are mostly eurite,) and when talcose, (protogine,) and again where schorl prevails; in short, wherever mica is absent, and minerals abounding in magnesia and lime or metallic oxides are found,—or transitions into syenite, porphyry, basalt or volcanic rocks are noticed,—it indicates an origin of later date than antient granite.

Mr. Prideaux, speaking of the granites and other rocks in the vicinity, says the granites of Dartmoor "vary in hardness from such as defy the tool, to those which fall to pieces with a blow, or may be cut with a spade." Tin, copper, and manganese are found among them, but not lead. A coarse porphyry occurs on Morwell Down, Grenofen, and Walkhampton; the porphyritic elvan (Roborough Stone) is quarried at Harewood, west of the Tamar.

The slates near granite, are micaceous at Meavy, Shaugh, Blackalder Tor, Heytor, &c.; and talcose at Collard and Walkhampton. A slate with quartz veins is topped by what is locally called Blackacre, at Warleigh Tor.

A compound of quartz, claystone and schorl, forms the hills at Ringmoor Down, Wigford, Roborough and Crownhill Downs. Trap, occurs abundantly, and may be seen at Cock's Tor, White Tor, Brazen Tor, &c.

In his catalogue, Mr. Prideaux enumerates the following rocks.*

ON DARTMOOR.

1. Common granite, *in the centre.*
2. Finer do. *Heytor; metalliferous.*
3. Red do. *Trowlesworthy Tor.*
4. Compact do. *Pen Beacon.*

BORDERING THE GRANITE.

1. Fine granite; *Calstock.*
2. Hornblende rock, ("trap;") *Cock's Tor.*
3. Schorl rock; *Roborough, &c.; metalliferous.*

* *Transactions of Plymouth Institution*, p. 41.

4. Quartz with claystone, ("capel;") metalliferous.
5. Micaceous slate; *Heytor, Shaugh.*
6. Ditto, passing into clay-slate; *Cotehele.*
7. Clay-slate; *Morwell Down, &c.*; metalliferous.
8. Do. compact, ("killas;") *borders of moor*; non-metalliferous.
9. Ribband jasper; *Icy-bridge, White Tor, &c.*
10. Granitoid porphyry; *Grenofen, Walkhampton.*
11. Felspar rock; *Fancy, Collard, Blatchford.*
12. Greenstone, ("trap;") *Rock, Egg Buckland, Estover, &c.*
13. Finer ditto, ("hypersthene;") *Cock's Tor* near Granite.

The influence of the atmosphere, causes different effects on these rocks, according to the state of their component parts; thus, weathering, as it is termed, sometimes extends to many feet deep. The tors and cairns are formed of mineral matter less inclined to decay than the parts around them. Schorlaceous parts make great resistance to decomposition; the original divisional planes, which dispose granite into cuboid, or pyramidal masses, permit atmospheric action on their edges, which thus tends to produce a rounded form. This weathering, accounts for the numerous logan rocks to be found in all granite districts, and also for the basin-shaped hollows, often seen on their upper surfaces, which have been supposed to have been the work of the Druids, but they are so numerous as to do away with that supposition, though it is not improbable that they might have occasionally been made use of in the Druidical ceremonies. The felspar is the most prone to decompose. The traps resist it most; hence they display many prominent points, as at Cock's Tor, Smear-ridge, White Tor, and the Botter Rock, near Hennock, and others around Bridford and Christow; when these decompose, the hornblende suffers as much as the felspar, the protoxide of iron becomes a peroxide, and the rocks have a rusty appearance. The decomposition of the felspar in the talcose variety of granite, yields "china-clay," which is now prepared artificially near Cornwood, (south of the moor,) in great quantities, and exported to the Potteries, from Plymouth to the extent of several thousand tons annually: the Heddon, Small Hanger, and Morley quarries, are now in full work. It is found in a natural state at Bovey Tracey, having been probably washed down from Dartmoor into a lake, or estuary, (De la Beche,) and is exported at Teignmouth, in some years to the extent of 20 to 25,000 tons.

The rocks of Dartmoor and its neighbourhood, are extensively employed for economical purposes. It is used as a building-stone, with great profit, though much care is required in the selection, as the "Free Stones," so called from the facility of working them, are the soonest to decay. Large quantities of good stone are exported to London from Heytor, and also from Foggin Tor, by the tram-road to Plymouth. Two hundred tons are now sent every fortnight to the new docks at Keyham Point. Much granite is also employed in the streets of Plymouth, for curbing, to which it is well-adapted;

but for street paving, it is far inferior to the tough greenstones, from its readiness to be disintegrated by friction. The elvans are also superior to granite, of which many quarries are worked round Dartmoor, the "Roborough Stone" being one of the best.

For ornamental purposes the varieties of granite are not so much in request as they deserve. The elvans are, many of them, very beautiful; and a white variety of granite, obtained in the bed of the Ockment, near Okehampton, was employed by the Hon. Newton Fellowes, for chimney pieces, at Eggesford, which, at a short distance, looked like statuary marble. The greenstones of Cock's Tor are also highly ornamental, as also the red jasper of Brent Tor, Trowlsworthy, &c. Schorl rock has been greatly brought into notice by Mr. Austen Treffry, of Place House, Fowey, and is well-adapted for massive chimney pieces, pedestals, balustrades, &c. &c.

MINES AND STREAM WORKS.

For mining purposes, Dartmoor itself, though metalliferous, has not been much worked, yet Wheal Duchy and Birch Tor tin mine are now working, and formerly good returns were made from Vitifer Tin Mine, in the middle of the moor. Around its borders may be noticed Wheal Betsy, Wheal Jewel, and Wheal Friendship near Black Down. Wheal Crebor, East and West Crowndale, Virtuous Lady, Wheal Buck Tor; Wheal Franco and Wheal Robert near Horrabridge. Most of which yield copper, except Betsy, which abounds in silver and lead, as also the South Hooe mine and others near Beer Alston. Bottle Hill mine, near Hemerdon Ball, is a tin mine. It is often found that copper and tin occur together; and a mine commencing with tin, will often ultimately furnish copper.

Manganese is often found, and is quarried at Doddiscombeigh, Ashton, and Christow on the Teign.

Cobalt occurs in Wheal Huckworthy, near Sampford Spiney.

Antimony, at Hennock and Bovey Tracey.

Zinc, in most of the sulphurets of Devon and Cornwall, termed "Black Jack" by the miners.

Iron, (red hematite,) at Shaugh Prior and Ilsington; and the micaceous iron ore of South Brent and Dartmoor, termed "Devonshire Sand," is used for sanding writings.

Gold is occasionally found in the stream works.

OF THE METALS.—Copper and tin are found in granite; the latter, especially, in the stream works, which are gravels formed of the detritus of the neighbouring rocks. They occur in the vallies throughout the whole country from Dartmoor to the Land's End; and many spots remain on Dartmoor, which have been formerly worked over, by the "Old Men." The origin of these gravels has been variously accounted for. Sir H. De la Bèche says, p. 399, "an hypothesis merely requiring that prior to the production of the stream tin, a mass of decomposed granite existed in the same place,

(in fact, a higher part of that which now remains,) and that a body of water was driven violently against and over it, would explain the phenomena observed."

The ORES of the different metals, being combinations with other minerals, are principally found in fissures at the junctions of the different rocks. These fissures, or veins, always partake of the non-metallic ingredients of the rocks in which they occur. In granites, silica prevailing, quartz is found; in calcareous rocks, carbonate of lime; in gypsiferous beds, sulphate of lime; and they are also often filled with water, which, having soaked through the rocks, contains many of their mineral contents in solution.

MINERAL VEINS.—The origin of these has been a subject of anxious enquiry. Mr. J. Taylor's Report, at the meeting of the British Association, at Cambridge, noticed in vol. iii., contains the fullest exposition of opinions on the subject; but the prevailing theories are—1st, That mineral veins are formed contemporaneously, with the rocks which enclose them; 2nd, That the fissures are filled by sublimation of substances, driven by heat from beneath, upwards; 3rd, That they are derived from chemical deposits of substances in solution in the fissures, aided by electro-chemical agency. The first is the view entertained by the majority of the miners. The whole subject has been illustrated by Mr. Carne and Mr. R. W. Fox;* and Becquerel has still farther explained the influence which electro-chemical changes exert among different minerals, when aided by heat and water.

These changes are still more readily called into action, when fresh fractures occur, enabling new agents to come into operation. The various *faults*, or *heaves*, occurring in the crust of the earth may be owing to the temporary local volcanic effects, or to the natural results of a cooling surface, supposing the earth to have been once in an incandescent state. That its surface has been extensively ruptured in all geological ages is evident on examination. Volcanic action in the most antient strata, bears all the indications of having operated in the same manner, as is now noticeable, where modern volcanos are acting. Added to which, evidence is not wanting, to show that the earth has undergone, and is still affected by, influences which have caused elevations and depressions of particular parts. The superficial gravels are proofs of long-continued aqueous action, disintegrating the rocks while under water, and the subsequent elevation of those parts above the sea, has thus brought them to light. The submarine forests and raised beaches along the coasts, are proofs of depressions and elevations. The counties of Devon and Cornwall, at a comparatively recent geological period, have been canted up, in such a way, that while the southern side of them has been raised forty or fifty feet, the north coast has reached an elevation of one hundred and twenty feet. Greater points of elevation are

* Transactions of Geological Society of Cornwall.

observable in Wales; and, indeed, marks of the sea-level at different points, in all countries, are now considered as so many proofs of the successive rise of the land.* This opinion has been extensively illustrated by Mr. Darwin,† from observations in South America. These effects are not less certain, whether we consider them arising from a continuous elevatory force,‡ aided, as some suppose, by the contractions of a cooling surface, or from successive intrusions of igneous matter. Facts are also now sufficiently accumulated to warrant the conclusion, that volcanic agency has been extensively in operation in the neighbourhood of Dartmoor, during the deposition of the different strata of which the district is composed; and in reference to similar evidence respecting the Malvern Hills, Sir R. Murchison says, (p. 78,) "Such facts are, it seems to me, miniature counterparts of the upraising, at successive periods, of mountain-chains, and the grand phenomena of the Caucasus, the Alps, and the Pyrenees, may nearly all be studied in our small English ridges."

The same causes which appear to have acted in former ages, are now being followed by similar results; the ruins of the various existing rocks, disintegrated by atmospheric and other changes, and gradually conveyed into the present sea, are "all destined, probably, in some future condition of this portion of our planet, with the remains of the creatures that exist in and upon them, to be raised above the level of the Atlantic, and to be covered with terrestrial life, as has happened with the far greater part of the lands of Cornwall and Devon and West Somerset, the latter of which is merely formed of the superficially decomposed bottoms of ancient seas, that have been elevated above water into the atmosphere.§

In this short outline I have endeavoured to give a view of the present state of knowledge respecting this district, which together with the surrounding country was for so long a time an unresolved problem in geology; but the very searching enquiry to which so many able geologists have devoted themselves, has probably overcome the difficulty, and at length pointed out the true position of the slates and granites of Devon and Cornwall. More extended information respecting the geology of these counties must be sought for, in the various interesting memoirs which have been published on this subject by the writers already referred to, and also by Professor Phillips, Mr. Austen, Rev. D. Williams, Col. Harding, &c. whose contributions are to be found in the various Reports of the British Association.

* MURCHISON'S Anniversary Address. *Geological Proceedings*, vol. iv., p. 98.

† *Voyage of the Beagle*.

‡ HOPKINS. *Cambridge Philosophical Trans.*, vol. vi., and *Philosophical Magazine*.

§ DE LA BECHE'S *Report*, p. 460.

APPENDIX,

No. II.

SOIL AND AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES OF DARTMOOR.

By EDWARD MOORE, M.D., F.L.S., late Secretary to the Plymouth Institution.

THIS has been, for a long period, very debateable ground, and the efforts which have been occasionally made to render this barren spot productive, have been, in most instances, unsuccessful; it is from this fact, that the prevailing opinion among the moormen arises, that it is incapable of cultivation. Still, when the difficulties to be surmounted are considered, it may be a question whether the defect is to be fairly attributed to the climate, elevation, or soil. Much, no doubt, is owing to the exposure,* the snow drifts in winter, and long-continued rains in autumn; but that is no more than occurs in all Alpine countries, and is not wholly destructive of vegetation in Scotland or Switzerland. The right of common enjoyed by the inhabitants of the parishes surrounding the moor, and which is a great drawback to improvement, may have some influence on the opinion, and also the application of plants to the soil which it is not physically calculated to sustain, may be taken into account, and which the late improvements in chemistry may enable us to surmount: we will endeavour to illustrate this as we proceed.

It is scarcely to be expected that the debris of the granite rocks should support such a luxuriant vegetation, as the more favoured spots resting on the schists and trap-rocks of the surrounding districts; still it may be a question, whether much of the barren appearance be not chiefly owing to *a want of adequate shelter* from the cold and high winds which the more elevated localities are exposed to, since throughout the moor many of the dells and ravines, between the tors and in the neighbourhood of the rivers, present much fertility.

* In *Woolmer's Exeter Gazette*, for December 7, 1839, occur the following observations, in a communication from the Rev. J. H. Mason:—"I attended Mr. Vancouver, when he viewed the moor, previously to his publishing his Survey of Devon: and he imagined that the blights the lowlands are subject to, were occasioned by winds which blew across the mass of peat. At Lydford, the S.E. wind, and at Widdecombe, the N.W., was injurious." Such statements from competent authority, should always be borne in mind, in all speculations on the agricultural capabilities of the moor.—S. R.

Wistman's Wood, whose gnarled and stunted appearance is always quoted as an instance of want of congeniality of climate, may as readily be adduced as an indication of what Nature can perform there, in spite of the obstacles which exist. One of the necessary ingredients for successful cultivation, (water,) is presented in the numerous rivers and smaller streams which diversify the surface of the moor.

The soil of Dartmoor, at the surface, is chiefly peat, which for ages has been accumulating in the bottoms between the tors, so as to be occasionally found from one to twenty-five feet* in thickness, lessening in depth as we ascend the higher grounds, where it is not above a few inches thick. The subsoil is fine sand, which is revealed beneath the peat in the numerous pits made to obtain gravel for the various roadways. The depth of this is uncertain, probably filling up all the inequalities between the different granite peaks. The present state of the moor indicates less a want of fertility than of luxuriance. It is not deficient in grass, and the whole forms a fine pasture for cattle, sheep and horses. At Baredown Farm, near Two Bridges, a very good plantation is now flourishing. The efforts of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, at Tor Royal, though at first successful, have not been followed out with equal energy, yet much benefit may be expected from recent facilities of conveyance. A granite soil is not in itself wholly unproductive, since, in low situations, the growans of Cornwall are not deficient in that particular;† and it has long been known that the neighbourhood of Penzance supplies abundance of potatoes to the London and Plymouth markets, and that of Exeter is chiefly furnished from the neighbourhood of Moreton itself. De la Bèche observes‡ that oaks, ash, and sycamore, grow well in growan, or granite soils, in sheltered situations, and though from their readiness to part with their moisture, these soils are less calculated for the support of fibrous than of bulbous roots, yet in Dartmoor the great quantity of moisture which exists will compensate for this defective quality. Sir Humphrey Davy observes,§ in a moist climate, a "siliceous sandy soil is much more productive than in dry districts." And the same author states, that a sandy or gravelly *sub-soil*, (such as exists in Dartmoor,) "often corrects the imperfections of too great a degree of absorbent power in the true soil." (p. 163.) "A soil," (says Liebig,||) "formed by the action of the weather on the component parts of granite, &c., will become a magazine of alkalies, in a condition favourable for their assimilation by the roots of plants."

In order to display the qualities of Dartmoor soil, in a more particular manner, let us make a few observations on soils in general, and their action on plants during vegetation.

* Near Row Tor it is thirty feet deep.

† See Dr. BOASE, *Geological Transactions of Cornwall*, vol. iv., p. 365.

‡ *Report on Geology of Devon and Cornwall*, p. 475.

§ *Agricultural Chemistry*, p. 164.

|| *Chemistry of Agriculture and Physiology*, p. 138.

Soils are compounds of earths, silica, alumina, lime, magnesia, oxides of iron and manganese, animal and vegetable matters in a decomposing state, and saline or alkaline combinations, (*Davy*, p. 134;) and the best natural soils are those of which the materials have been derived from different strata, intimately blended together. A soil may be considered a magazine of *inorganic* matters, which are prepared by the plant to suit the purposes destined for them in its nutrition. (*Liebig*, p. 10.)

The ultimate constituents of plants are those of *organic* matter in general, viz., carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen. These are united in various ways: in one, to form woody fibre, starch, gum, and sugar; in another for the organic acids; in a third manner, to form volatile and fixed oils, wax, and resins; and in a fourth, to produce albumen and gluten. A plant, therefore, requires for its development, the presence of substances containing carbon and nitrogen; of the elements of water, (viz., oxygen and hydrogen,) and also of the soil, to furnish the inorganic matters essential to its vitality.

Acids and alkalis are the most important division of *inorganic* substances, both having a tendency to unite together and form neutral salts; then alkaline earths, metallic oxides, &c. They vary according to the soil, and are obtained by chemical forces, guided by the vital principle, acting on the ingredients in solution, which are absorbed by the roots, and the substances thus conveyed to plants, are retained in greater or less quantity, or entirely separated, when not suited for assimilation. Sea plants require metallic iodides for their growth, and alkalis and alkaline earths, (found in their ashes,) are necessary for the development of land plants.

In spring, when the organs of plants are absent which nature has appointed for the assumption of nourishment from the atmosphere, the component substance of the seeds is exclusively employed in the formation of the roots, which perform the functions of leaves, from the first moment of their formation; they extract from the soil their proper nourishment, viz., the carbonic acid, generated by the *humus*.* (Bulbs and tubers do not require food from the soil, and this class of plants is ranked amongst those which do not exhaust a soil, p. 60.) By loosening the ground, we favour the production of carbonic acid. The plant, as it increases, itself effects this change, and receiving food, both by its roots below and other organs above ground, rapidly advances to maturity; and when the leaves, by which it obtains food from the atmosphere are fully formed, the carbonic acid of the soil, is no longer required. (p. 49.) When the food of a plant is in greater quantity than its organs require, the superfluous nourishment is employed in the formation of new organs. The functions of leaves are to absorb carbonic acid, and with the aid of light and moisture, to appropriate its carbon, which serves for all the solid matters of the plant. They also now produce sugar, starch,

* Woody fibre in a state of decay is the substance called Humus.—*LIEBIG*, p. 48.

and acids. When woody fibre is produced, to a certain extent, the supply of nourishment takes a new direction, and blossoms are produced. The functions of the leaves cease, upon the ripening of the fruit, and these now yielding to the chemical influence of the oxygen of the air, decay, change colour, and fall off. Thus, in the earlier stages, the carbon is derived from the humus, or decayed vegetable matter in the soil, which is not taken up unaltered, but presents a slow and lasting source of carbonic acid, which acting in the same manner in a soil permeable to the air, as in the air itself, is absorbed by the roots. In a more mature state of the plant, the carbon is derived from the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, (composed of oxygen, nitrogen, carbonic acid, and ammonia,) which plants decompose, and appropriating the carbon for their own use, give out the oxygen again as soon as the direct or indirect rays of the sun strike them.

The fertility of a soil is much influenced by its physical properties of porosity, colour, attraction for moisture, and state of disintegration; but independently of these, fertility also depends on the chemical constituents of which it is composed. (p. 199.) Alkalies, earths, and phosphates, found in the ashes of plants, are indispensable for their development. All the different families of plants are distinguished by containing certain acids, in combination with earthy or alkaline bases. Thus, the vine contains tartaric; the sorrels, oxalic; and corn plants, silicic acid, extracted from the soil. There are also, malic and citric acids, &c. The generation of these acids is prevented, when alkalies are absent from the soil in which they grow; potash, soda, lime, and magnesia are thus as indispensable for the existence of plants as the carbon from which their organic acids are formed. Thus, the salts necessary for the support of the vital functions, if wanting in the soil, or if the bases are absent, cannot be formed, and the juice, leaves, and fruit cannot be matured. Different plants require different acids and alkalies: soda is found in saline plants; lime and potash, in corn-plants, &c. Upon the correct knowledge of the bases and salts required for each plant, and on the composition of the soil on which it grows, depends the proper application of manures, and indeed the whole system of a rational theory of agriculture. (*Liebig*, p. 201.) Now in reference to Dartmoor, a pure sandy soil is generally barren; but in the disintegration of common granite, (which consists of quartz, felspar, and mica,) certain chemical constituents are found, which form useful components.

Quartz is chiefly silica.

Felspar, according to Bucholz and Vauquelin, contains 60 per cent of silica, 20 per cent of alumina, 14 per cent of potash, and a little lime. *Liebig* states that it contains $17\frac{3}{4}$ per cent of potash, and that albite, (pure felspar,) yields in addition 11.43 of soda. (p. 135.) China-clay, or porcelain earth, is decomposed felspar.

Mica, according to Klaproth, yields by analysis, silica 47 per cent, alumina 22 per cent, oxide of iron $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, potash $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and a little manganese. *Liebig* says it contains only 3 to 5 per cent of potash; and according to Mr. Wallace, (*Geological*

Proceedings, vol. 4, p. 193,) when binaxal, potash, the new alkali, lithia, and also fluoric acid. When uniaxal, it contains magnesia, but no lime.

In Dartmoor granite we find an abundance of Schorl, sometimes with, and sometimes replacing the mica. This species of tourmaline contains 36 per cent of silica, $34\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of alumina, 21 per cent of oxide of iron, with a little potash, magnesia, and manganese, together with a large portion of boracic acid. (*Klaproth*.) The chief want, therefore, in the granitic debris of Dartmoor is a greater proportion of the alkaline earths, magnesia and lime, but these may be obtained in the neighbourhood. Limestones occur all round the moor; and hornblende, which is a component of the various trap-rocks, abounds in magnesia and lime. (*Wallace*, p. 194.) Hence we find nearly all the chemical ingredients necessary for vegetation in the various rocks of this district.

Again, the earthy matter of peat soils is uniformly analogous to that of the stratum on which they repose; therefore different peats on granite soils have always yielded ashes principally siliceous, (*Davy*, p. 167,) but other important ingredients occur in them. A barren heath, near Brunswick, according to Liebig, (p. 216,) yielded

Silica, with sand	92.651
Alumina	1.342
Oxides of iron and manganese	2.324
Lime, with sulphuric and phosphoric acid	0.929
Magnesia, with sulphuric acid	0.283
Potash and soda, as sulphates and phosphates	0.564
Phosphoric acid, with lime	0.250
Sulphuric acid, with potash, soda, and lime ..	1.620
Chlorine in common salt	0.037
	<hr/>
	100.000

This heath was rendered fertile by manuring with lime, marl, cow-dung, and the ashes of the heaths which grew upon it. The peat then, besides furnishing these different salts, contributes also to form the vegetable mould, or humus, necessary for the support of vegetable life.

It will not be necessary to enter farther into the chemical changes, which take place in plants, and which are fully explained in Liebig's Treatise. It is presumed that enough has been stated to point out that the soil of Dartmoor possesses qualities sufficient to warrant a fair prospect of profitable returns, when submitted to the ordinary processes of agriculture. The application of manures, whether animal or vegetable, must be determined by the necessities of the particular plants requiring to be cultivated, which if not found in the soil, must be externally supplied, for it is certain that the soil must gradually lose those of its constituents, which are removed in the seeds, roots and leaves of plants reared upon it. Now in

Dartmoor the great quantity of silica, will afford one of the necessary ingredients for all the gramineous plants, and this is shown in the luxuriance sometimes observed in corn grown on the moor. Mr. Frean informs me, that some of his fields have yielded stalks of corn-plants six feet in height.

The attempts which have been made, from time to time, to bring this waste spot into profitable use, will no doubt ultimately convert it into productive land. Great improvements were effected at Tor Royal, by the late Sir T. Tyrwhitt, amidst many disadvantages from the want of good roads. The progress may be slow, and it must be admitted that an isolated endeavour is not so likely to be beneficial, as where many similar measures are being carried out at the same time. Let any one pass over the district, or examine a good map, and he will find that all the parts of the granite soil, east of a line, drawn from Buckland through Widdecombe, North Bovey, and Moreton to Drewsteignton, are already brought into cultivation. The increasing population, in past years, pressing westward from the neighbourhood of Exeter, has gradually surmounted the obstacles of elevation and climate, and daily encroachments are still making on all the borders. The large number of workmen (200) employed at Foggintor Granite Quarry, who have no accommodation there, has induced the Messrs. Johnson to cause numerous cottages to be erected for their use, and gardens have already been appropriated to them. A naphtha company has lately been established at the site of the prisons, near Prince Town, and it is found that by distilling the peat, many useful products, as naphtha, camphine, &c., are produced. These Naphtha Works are under the management of Mr. Drew, the inventor of the plan of proceeding, who resides there. The interior is lighted with gas obtained from the peat; and when in full operation, the consumption of peat will exceed thirty-six tons per day.

Mr. Frean and others have established a powder manufactory near Two Bridges, and Mr. J. N. Bennett, solicitor, of Plymouth, has erected a dwelling-house, and inclosed 150 acres of land, near Arche Tor, or Archeton Hill, in the centre of the moor. All these measures, by causing a demand for the wants of an increasing population, are gradually bringing the moor within the influence of the properly conducted industry of man. Taking therefore into consideration the prospects arising from the above statements, and noticing the luxuriance of those plants, which nestle in sheltered situations on all parts of the moor, we may infer that the principal desideratum, in any attempts which may be made towards its cultivation, is, protection from the one evil of boisterous winds; and the properly-directed efforts of an industrious population may, by the erection of hedges and walls, and the formation of plantations, at length, succeed in rendering its excellent natural qualities ultimately available.

APPENDIX,

No. III.

BOTANY OF DARTMOOR.

By EDWARD MOORE, M.D., F.L.S., late Secretary to the Plymouth Institution.

A GRANITIC district, it is well known, is always regarded as barren and unproductive, and Dartmoor cannot be considered to be different in this respect from its congeners, even although the term "Forest," applied to great part of it, may lead to the inference that, in earlier ages, it might have been dotted with trees and shrubs; indeed trunks of tolerably-sized trees have been occasionally found in the bogs, the roots of one of which, indicating a considerably advanced growth, is now in the Museum of the Plymouth Institution. Still, after all, the appellation may only mean to be used in the loose sense of a Forest, or Chase, fit for the resort of game, and the recreation of the nobility of feudal times. But, it is in just such a place as this, where nature is left in full sway, unmolested by the operations of man, that the botanist meets with his greatest rarities, and many a spot exists on the moor, in which the explorer of nature may fancy himself, far removed from the busy haunts of men, where the view is bounded only by the surrounding tors and sky, and where the awful silence, which reigns around, will afford ample opportunity for sublime contemplation, only interrupted perhaps, by the sudden flight of the ring-ouzel, scared by his presence from its nest; or he may be occasionally startled from his reverie by the screams of the curlew, or the shrill whistle of the lapwing, dotterel, or stone plover.

It will be in vain to attempt a full account of all the vegetable productions which occur in wild luxuriance, in this region, but many of the following are peculiar to it, or otherwise considered as rare in botanical collections. They are nearly all found within the granite borders, and most of them are represented in Smith and Sowerby's "English Botany," or Greville's *Cryptogamia*. The natural system

of classification is adopted from Hooker's "British Flora;" the localities are from Jones and Kingston's "Flora Devoniensis," except where otherwise specified.

CLASS I.

EXOGENOUS PLANTS—DICOTYLEDONES.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 1.—Crowfoot Tribe.	1.— <i>Ranunculaceæ</i> .	
Water Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Ord. 3.—Water Lily Tr.	3.— <i>Nymphaeaceæ</i> .	
Yellow Water Lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Do. (M.)
Ord. 4.—Poppies.	4.— <i>Papaveraceæ</i> .	
Long Rough-headed Poppy	<i>Papaver argemone</i>	North Bovey.
Ord. 5.—Fumitories.	5.— <i>Fumariaceæ</i> .	
Ramping Fumitory	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	N. Bovey, Manaton.
Climbing do.	———— <i>claviculata</i>	Wistman's Wood.
Ord. 6.—Cruciform Tribe	6.— <i>Cruciferae</i> .	
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Pleurorhizæ</i> .	
Cuckow Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Bogs on the moor. (M.)
Naked-stalked Candy Tuft	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	Moreton, N. Bovey.
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Notorhizæ</i> .	
Treacle-hedge Mustard	<i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i> ..	Do. do.
Hairy Pepperwort	<i>Lepidium hirtum</i>	Dartmoor, generally.
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Orthoplocæ</i> .	
Field Cabbage	<i>Brassica campestris</i>	Moreton, N. Bovey.
Wild Rape	———— <i>rapus</i>	Do. do.
Ord. 9.—Violets.	9.— <i>Violariæ</i> .	
Marsh Violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>	Do. do.
Ord. 10.—Sundews.	10.— <i>Droseraceæ</i> .	
Round-leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Bogs on the moor.
Ord. 14.—Chickweed Tr.	14.— <i>Caryophyllæ</i> .	
English Catchfly	<i>Silene anglica</i>	Lustleigh, Manaton.
Moss do.	———— <i>acaulis</i>	Dartmoor. (Hudson.)
Meadow Lychnis	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Do. (M.)
Awl-shaped Spurrey	<i>Spergula subulata</i>	Blacktytor.
Knotted do.	———— <i>nodosa</i>	Heytor.
Bog Stitch-wort	<i>Stellaria uliginosa</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Ord. 15.—Flaxes.	15.— <i>Lineæ</i> .	
Allseed	<i>Radiola millegrana</i>	Heytor Down.
Ord. 17.—Linden Tribe.	17.— <i>Tiliaceæ</i> .	
Small-leaved Lime Tree ..	<i>Tilia parvifolia</i>	Woods on the Dart. (Mr. T. Abraham.)

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 18.—Titsan Tribe.	18.— <i>Hypericineæ</i> .	
Marsh St. John's Wort ..	<i>Hypericum elodes</i>	Bogs on the moor. (M.)
Imperforate do.	———— <i>dubium</i>	Do. (M.)
Ord. 20.—Cranesbills.	20.— <i>Geraniaceæ</i> .	
Hemlock-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Moreton.
Bloody do.	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Ord. 24.—Buckthorns.	24.— <i>Rhamneæ</i> .	
Alder Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Moreton.
Ord. 25.—Pea Tribe.	25.— <i>Leguminosæ</i> .	
Common Furze	<i>Ulex europæus</i>	Peak Hill. (M.)
Dwarf do.	———— <i>nanus</i>	Do. (M.)
Needle do.	<i>Genista anglica</i>	Bogs, Widdecombe.
Common Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Smooth Round-headed Tre- foil	<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i>	Do. (M.)
Bird's-foot	<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	N. Bovey, Manaton.
Spring Vetch	<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	Do.
Tuberous Bitter Vetch	<i>Orobus tuberosus</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Ord. 26.—Rosaceous Tr.	26.— <i>Rosaceæ</i> .	
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Amygdaleæ</i> .	
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	N. Bovey.
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Dryadeæ</i> .	
Wild Raspberry	<i>Rubus idæus</i>	Manaton, Widdecombe.
Orange Alpine Cinquefoil ..	<i>Potentilla alpestris</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Common Tormentil	<i>Tormentilla officinalis</i>	Do.
Procumbent Sibbaldia	<i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>	Do.
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Sanguisorbæ</i> .	
Ladies' Mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	Widdecombe.
Alpine do.	———— <i>alpina</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Rosææ</i> .	
Burnet Rose	<i>Rosa spinosissima</i>	Sourton, Moreton.
Downy-leaved Rose	———— <i>tomentosa</i>	Chagford.
Sweet Briar	———— <i>rubiginosa</i>	Lustleigh.
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Pomaceæ</i> .	
Mountain Ash	<i>Pyrus aucuparia</i>	Highest tors, Wistman's Wood.
Ord. 28.—Horse-tail Tr.	28.— <i>Haloragææ</i> .	
Common Mare's-tail	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Spiked Water-Millfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Fingle Bridge
Ord. 30.—Loosestrife Tr.	30.— <i>Lythrarieæ</i> .	
Water Purslane	<i>Peplis portula</i>	Lustleigh, Buckland.
Ord. 34.—Knot-grass Tr.	34.— <i>Paronychieæ</i> .	
Whorled Knot-grass	<i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i> ..	Dartmoor.
Ord. 35.—House Leeks.	35.— <i>Crassulaceæ</i> .	
Wall Pennywort	<i>Cotyledon umbilicus</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Orpine	<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Buckland.
	———— <i>album</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 36.—Currant Tribe.	36.— <i>Grossulariæ</i> .	
Wild Currant	Ribes rubrum	Widdecombe, N. Bovey.
Ord. 37.—Saxifrage Tr.	37.— <i>Saxifragæ</i> .	
Mossy Saxifrage	Saxifraga hypnoides	Dartmoor. (M.)
Ord. 38.—Umbelliferous Tribe.	38.— <i>Umbelliferæ</i> .	
Common Whiterot	Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Do. (M.)
Ord. 43.—Madder Tribe.	43.— <i>Rubiaceæ</i> .	
Goose Grass	Galium aparine	Do. (M.)
Ord. 46.—Compound Fl.	46.— <i>Compositæ</i> .	
Alpine Hawkweed	Hieracium alpinum	Do. (M.)
Shrubby do.	———— subaudum	Manaton, Hennock.
Wall do.	———— murorum	Heytor, Dunsford.
Narrow-leaved do.	———— umbellatum	Fingle Bridge.
Common Tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	Moreton, N. Bovey.
Least Cudweed	Gnaphalium minimum	Widdecombe.
Mountain do.	———— dioicum	Dartmoor. (M.)
Corn Chamomile	Anthemis arvensis	Moreton.
Ord. 47.—Bell Flowers.	47.— <i>Campanulaceæ</i> .	
Ivy-leaved Bellflower	Campanula hederacea	Moreton, &c.
Ord. 49.—Heaths.	49.— <i>Ericæ</i> .	
Fine-leaved Heath	Erica cinerea	Dartmoor, generally.
Cross-leaved do.	———— tetralix	Do.
Ling or Heather	Calluna vulgaris	Do.
Whortle Berry	Vaccinium myrtillus	Do.
Trailing Azalea	Azalea procumbens	Do. (M.)
Marsh Andromeda	Andromeda polifolia	Do.
Ord. 56.—Bindweed Tr.	56.— <i>Convolvulaceæ</i> .	
Great Bindweed	Convolvulus sepium	N. Bovey.
Lesser Dodder	Cuscuta epithymum	Moreton.
Ord. 57.—Borage Tribe.	57.— <i>Boraginæ</i> .	
Great Scorpion Grass	Myosotis palustris	Dartmoor.
Bog Pimpernel	Anagallis tenella	Do.
Ord. 59.—Broom-rape Tr	59.— <i>Orobanchæ</i> .	
Great Broom-Rape	Orobanche major	Moreton, Lustleigh.
Ord. 60.—Figwort Tribe.	60.— <i>Scrophularinæ</i> .	
Alpine Speedwell	Veronica alpina	Dartmoor. (M.)
Rock do.	———— saxatilis	Do.
Marsh do.	———— scutellata	Do.
Water do.	———— anagallis	Do.
Brooklime	———— beccabunga	Do.
Water Figwort	Scrophularia aquatica	Do.
Ivy-leaved Snapdragon	Antirrhinum cymbalaria ..	Churchyard Walls, Widdecombe.
Sharp-pointed Toad-flax .	———— elatine	Moor, generally.
Cornish Money-wort	Sibthorpia europæa	Tor, near Harford. (Sir F. Drake.)

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 61.—Mint Tribe.	61.— <i>Labiatae</i> .	
Gypsy-wort	<i>Lycopus europæus</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Round-leaved Mint	<i>Mentha rotundifolia</i>	N. Bovey.
Mother-wort	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Do.
Hooded Scullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i> ..	Fingle Bridge.
Lesser do.	———— minor	Bogs on the moor.
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Ord. 63.—Wort Tribe.	63.— <i>Lentibulariæ</i> .	
Pale Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula lusitanica</i>	Bogs on the moor.
Greater Bladder-wort	<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Do. (M.)
Ord. 66.—Plantains.	66.— <i>Plantagineæ</i> .	
Plantain Shoreweed	<i>Littorella lacustris</i>	Sands, near Widdecombe.
Ord. 68.—Goosefoot Tr.	68.— <i>Chenopodeæ</i> .	
Wild Spinach	<i>Chenopodium bonus Hen-</i> <i>ricus</i>	Widdecombe.
Ord. 69.—Buckwheat Tr.	69.— <i>Polygoneæ</i> .	
Common Bistort	<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Do.
Great Water-dock	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Dartmoor. (M.)
Common Sorrel	———— <i>acetosa</i>	Do. (Miss S. Baron.)
Ord. 76.—Nettles.	76.— <i>Urticeæ</i> .	
Wild Hop	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	N. Bovey.
Ord. 78.—Catkin-bearing Tribe.	78.— <i>Amentaceæ</i> .	
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Salicineæ</i> .	
Crack Willow	<i>Salix Fragilis</i> ...	Dartmoor. (M.)
White do.	———— <i>alba</i>	Do.
	Sub. Ord.— <i>Cupuliferæ</i> .	
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	N.E. of Roundel Stone. (M.)
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Wistman's Wood. (M.)
Ord. 79.—Gale Tribe.	79.— <i>Myriceæ</i> .	
Sweet Gale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bogs, Manaton.

CLASS II.

ENDOGENOUS PLANTS.—MONOCOTYLEDONES.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 85.—	85.— <i>Pistiaceæ</i> .	
Lesser Duckweed	<i>Lemna Minor</i>	Bogs, Manaton.
Ord. 86.—Floating Tr.	86.— <i>Naiades</i> .	
Perfoliate Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i> ..	Do.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 92.—Rushes.	92.— <i>Juncææ</i> .	
Asphodel	Narthecium ossifragum	Bogs on the moor.
Soft-rush	Juncus effusus	Do.
Common do.	—— conglomeratus	Do.
Great Wood-rush	Luzula sylvatica	Dartmoor. (Miss S. Baron.)
Ord. 94.—Orchis Tribe.	94.— <i>Orchidææ</i> .	
Dwarf Orchis	Orchis ustulata	Shaugh Vale. (M.)
Pyramidal Orchis	—— pyramidalis	Bogs. (Miss S. Baron.)
Butterfly Orchis	Habenaria bifolia	Widdecombe.
Ord. 95.—Iris Tribe.	95.— <i>Irideææ</i> .	
Yellow Water Iris	Iris pseudacorus	Dartmoor.
Ord. 98.—Grasses.	98.— <i>Gramineææ</i> .	
Reed Canary-grass	Phalaris arundinacea	Do.
Bristle-leaved Bent-grass ..	Agrostis setacea	Do.
Purple Melic-grass	Melica cærulea	Do.
Blue Moor-grass	Sceleria cærulea	Do.
Reed Meadow-grass	Poa aquatica	Do.
Floating do.	—— fluitans	Do.
Alpine do.	—— alpina	Do.
Ord. 99.—Sedges.	99.— <i>Cyperaceææ</i> .	
Prickly Twig-rush	Cladium mariscus	Do. (M.)
Black Bog-rush	Schænus nigricans	Do.
White Beak-rush	Rhynchospora alba	Do.
Bull-rush	Scirpus lacustris	Streams. (M.)
Floating Spike-rush	Eleocharis fluitans	Do.
Many-stalked do.	—— multicaulis	Do.
Creeping do.	—— palustris	Dartmoor. (M.)
Scaly-stalked do.	—— cæspitosa	Do.
Hare's-tail Cotton-grass ..	Eriophorum vaginatum	Bogs. (M.)
Broad-leaved do.	—— polystichion ..	Do.
Common do.	—— angustifolium ..	Do. (Miss S. Baron.)
Flea Carex	Carex pulicaris	Do.
Tufted-bog do.	—— cæspitosa	Hamildown.
Great pendulous do.	—— pendula	Widdecombe.
Great panicle do.	—— paniculata	Dartmoor. (M.)
Lesser common do.	—— paludosa	Do.
Greater common do.	—— riparia	Do.

CLASS III.

CELLULAR PLANTS.—ACOTYLEDONES.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ord. 100.—Ferns.	100.— <i>Filicesææ</i> .	
	Sub. Ord.—Polypodiaceæ.	
Mountain Polypody	Polypodium phegopteris ..	Beckey Fall.
Common do.	—— vulgare	Moor, generally.
Prickly Shield-fern	Aspidium aculeatum	Dartmoor.
Lesser crested do.	—— spinulosum	Woods, Dunsford.
Filmy-leaved do.	Hymenophyllum Tun- bridgense	Rocks, Wistman's Wood.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Sub. Ord.—Lycopodiaceæ.		
Common Club-moss	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Heaths, Dartmoor. (M.)
.....	..... selago	Do.
101.—Mosses.	101.—<i>Musci</i>.	
Falcate Andreaea	Andreaea Rothii	Rocks on the moor, near S. Zeal.
Creased Bog-moss	<i>Sphagnum obtusifolium</i>	Bogs on the moor. (M.)
Near-shaped Beardless	<i>Gymnostomum fasciculare</i> ..	Cosdon Hill. (Dr. Greville.)
.....	..... pyriforme ..	N. Bovey.
Near-shaped do. ....	..... truncatulum ..	Moor, generally.
Blunt-fruited do.	<i>Anictangium ciliatum</i>	Downs, Dartmoor. (M.)
.....	<i>Weissia curvirostra</i>	Granite rocks.
Beaked Weissia ....	..... crispula	Do. Yannaton Down.
.....	<i>Grimmia ovata</i>	Heytor.
Grimmia	<i>Didymodon heteromallus</i> ..	Cosdon Hill. (Greville.)
Creased do.	<i>Trichostomum patens</i>	Sheepstor, Dewerstone.
Long Fringe-moss ....	.....	(Rev. J. Tozer.)
do. ....	..... lanuginosum ..	Rocks, Lustleigh.
Dark hoary do. ....	..... heterostichum ..	Do. N. Bovey.
.....	..... microcarpon ..	Lustleigh, N. Bovey.
.....	..... fasciculare ..	Do. Dunsford.
Creased Fork-moss	<i>Dicranum taxifolium</i>	Widdecombe.
do. ....	..... glaucum	Bogs. (M.)
do. ....	..... flexuosum	Cosdon Hill. (Greville.)
Purple-fruited do. ....	..... virens	Prison. (M.)
.....	..... strumiferum	Heytor.
.....	<i>Tortula revoluta</i>	N. Bovey Bridge.
.....	<i>Polytrichum urnigerum</i>	Streams, Whiteworks.
.....	..... undulatum ..	Moor.
Thread-moss	<i>Bryum palustre</i>	Bogs on do. (M.)
.....	..... crudum	Do.
.....	..... roseum	Hedges, N. Bovey.
.....	..... turbinatum	Whiteworks. (Tozer.)
.....	..... nutans	Peak Tor. (Tozer.)
.....	..... elongatum ..	Wild Tor.
.....	..... alpinum	Heytor Down.
.....	..... ventricosum	Bogs on the moor. (M.)
.....	<i>Bartramia marchica</i>	Do.
.....	..... arcuata	Cosdon Hill. (Greville.)
.....	<i>Pterogonium gracile</i>	Lustleigh, Botter Rock.
.....	<i>Neckera pumila</i>	N. Bovey.
.....	<i>Anomodon curtispiculum</i> ..	Tors, Wistman's Wood. (M.)
.....	<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	Streams. (M.)
.....	..... squarrosa	Prince Town. (Tozer.)
.....	<i>Hookeria lucens</i>	Streams, Beckey Fall.
.....	<i>Hypnum donianum</i>	Woods, Manaton.
.....	..... schreberi	Dartmoor. (M.)
.....	..... alopecurum	Do. Lustleigh Cleve.
.....	..... dendroides	Do.
.....	..... piliferum	Manaton.
.....	..... squarrosum	Prison. (M.)
.....	..... palustre	Prince Town. (M.)
.....	..... fluitans	Source of Plym. (Tozer.)
.....	..... rugosum	Do. of Tory-brook. (Tozer.)
.....	..... uncinatum	Manaton.
.....	..... undulatum	Do.
.....	..... scorpioides	Source of Tory-brook. (T.)
.....	..... molluscum	Heaths, Dartmoor. (M.)
102.—Liverworts.	102.—<i>Hepaticæ</i>.	
Jungermannia	<i>Jungermannia albicans</i>	Tors. (Rev. Mr. Newberry.)

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Ladder Jungermannia	Jungermannia scalaris	Houndtor Wood.
Hollow-leaved do.	———— cochleariformis	Streams on the moor. (M.)
Toothed do.	———— barbata	Beckey Fall.
Creeping do.	———— reptans	Houndtor Wood.
Silvery alpine do.	———— julacea	Streams of Dartmoor. (M.)

Ord. 103.—Lichens.

103.—*Lichenes*.

Brown Mushroom Bæomyces	Bæomyces rufus	Rocks, Heytor Down.
Grey-clouded Endocarpon..	Endocarpon miniatum	Tors, Moreton, &c.
Brownish-black Lecidea ..	Lecidea fusco-atra	Tors on the moor. (M.)
Confluent shielded do.	———— confluens	Do.
Black shielded do.	———— parasema	Do.
Map do.	———— altro-virens	Do. Heytor.
White do.	———— alba	Do. N. Bovey.
Frosty shielded do.	———— albo-cærulescens ..	Do.
Rusty shielded do.	———— cæcio-rufa	Do.
Rock do.	———— petræa	Do. Ingsdon.
Red Spangled Lecanora ..	Lecanora ventosa	Do. Heytor.
Wall-eyed do.	———— glaucoma	Do. Widdecombe.
Crab's-eye do., or Perelle ..	———— perella *	Do. Doddicombleigh.
Tartareous do. (Cudbear) ..	———— tartarea *	Do. Blackstone.
Blood-speckled L.	———— hæmatomma	Highest tors.
Yellow wall do.	———— murorum	Moreton.
Glomuliferous Parmelia ..	Parmelia glomulifera	Trees, Chagford.
Perforate shielded do.	———— perforata	Granite rocks.
Bright green do.	———— herbacea	Chagford, Lustleigh.
Purple rock do.	———— omphalodes	Tors, Moreton.
Sunburnt do.	———— aquila	Tors, Botter Rock.
Borrer's do.	———— borrieri	Trees, N. Bovey.
Chesnut shielded do.	———— conspersa	Rocks, Wistman's Wood. (M)
Lungwort Sticta	Sticta pulmonaria	Trees, Lustleigh Cleave.
Pitted do.	———— scrobiculata	Do. N. Bovey.
Mealy-bordered do.	———— limbata	Rocks, do.
Pitted wood do.	———— sylvatica	Hedges, near the moor.
Jagged Collema	Collema lacerum	N. Bovey, Moreton.
Marginal do.	———— marginale	Walls, N. Bovey.
Thrush Peltidea	Peltidea aphthosa	Woods, Lustleigh.
Dark-ground do.	———— rufescens	Manaton, N. Bovey.
Many-fingered do.	———— polydactyla	Beckey Fall.

* These two yield a red dye; the Cudbear however is inferior to the Perelle, which equals the celebrated Archil (*Rocella tinctoria*) which grows on maritime rocks, and is abundant on those of the Scilly Islands.—E. M.

These Lichens a few years since formed a profitable article of commerce. In September, 1843, the host of the Saracen's Head, Two-Bridges, informed me that he had often been employed to receive the moss collected from the rocks in that neighbourhood, and to send it to Plymouth for exportation. At Trowlsworthy, on the southern borders of the moor, the warrener gave me a similar account, in June, 1843, stating that although the women and children, who gathered the lichen, were obliged to use a kind of chisel to detach it from the rocks, they could procure as much as would pay them at the rate of two shillings a day. But in former years the demand must have been greater. Lysons relates that in the years from 1762 to 1767, inclusive, Mr. Davey collected from the rocks and tors of Dartmoor nearly one hundred tons of the lichen *tartarea*. Many tons of the lichen *perella* were collected in the neighbourhood of Okehampton, about twenty years ago. "After they have been well stripped," remarks Lysons, "it requires many years to clothe the rocks again with these vegetable productions." The Rev. E. A. Bray, (*TAMAR AND TAVR*, vol. 1, p. 128.) noticing the mosses of Dartmoor says, "I amuse myself with fancying that I have discovered an allusion in Pliny, to the beautiful scarlet moss still found on the moor, which not many years ago, was used as a dye for cloth." Pliny says, when speaking of British dyes, that "they were enriched by wonderful discoveries, and that their purples and scarlets were produced only by certain wild herbs."—S. R.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Resupinate Nephroma	Nephroma resupinata	Rocks and trees, Chagford.
Snout Gyrophora	Gyrophora proboscidea	Tors, Dartmoor. (M.)
Corroded do.	— erosa	Do. (Rev. Mr. Newberry.)
Fringed do.	— cylindrea	Do. (Rev. Mr. Newberry.)
Burnt do.	— deusta	Rocks, near Prison. (M.)
Blistered do.	— pustulata	Blackstone, Scobitor.
Fleecy do.	— pellita	Heytor Down.
Glaucous Cetraria	Cetraria glauca	Heytor, Botter Rock.
Iceland do.*	— islandica	Dartmoor. (M.)
Branny Borrera	Borrera furfuracea	Tors, Dartmoor. (M.)
Brasswire do.	— flavicans	Rocks and Trees.
Blistered Umbilicaria	Umbilicaria pustulata	Dartmoor. (Hooker.)
Fastigate Ramalina	Ramalina fastigiata	Heytor, Lustleigh.
Rock do. †	— scopulorum	Do. do.
Jointed Usnea	Usnea barbata	Widdecombe, Chagford.
Rock Hair †	Alectoria jubata	Heytor rocks, Lustleigh.
Dark Radiated Cornicularia	Cornicularia tristis	Rocks (Rev. Mr. Newberry)
Black woolly do.	— lanata	Do. (Rev. Mr. Newberry.)
Aculeated do.	— spadicea	Do. (Rev. Mr. Newberry.)
White Isidium	Isidium corallinum	Do. Heytor Down.
Dubious do.	— paradoxum	Dartmoor. (M.)
Coral Sphærophoron	Sphærophoron coralloides ..	Do. Grimspound.
Tender do.	— fragile	Do. Sheepsator.
Compressed do.	— compressum	Do. do.
Much-branched Stereocaulon	Stereocaulon paschale	Do. Grimspound.
Clustered do.	— botryosum ..	Do.
Elk's-horn Cup-lichen	Scyphophorus alpicornis ..	Tors, common. (M.)
Endive-leaved do.	— endivifolius ..	Heytor, Botter Rocks.
Buckshorn do.	— cervicornis ..	Do. do.
Fringed do.	— fimbriatus ..	Do. N. Bovey.
Thread-shaped do.	— filiformis ..	Heytor Down.
Fingered do.	— digitatus ..	N. Bovey, Manaton.
Scarlet do.	— cocciferus ..	Tors. (M.)
Forked Cladonia	Cladonia furcata	Heaths on the moor.
Short perforated do.	— uncialis	Do.
Rein-deer Moss	— rangiferina ...	Do. Heytor Down.

Ord. 104.—Characeous 104.—*Characeæ*.

Tribe.

Common Chara	Chara vulgaris	Streams on the moor. (M.)
Hispid do.	— hispida	Bogs.
Flaccid do.	— flexilis	Do.

Ord. 105.—Water Flags. 105.—*Algæ*.

Sub. Ord.—Confervoideæ.

Moor Conferva	Conferva ericetorum ...	Dartmoor. (M.)
Purple do.	— purpurascens	Do.
Alpine do.	— alpina	Do.
Silky do.	— bombycina	Do.
Floccose do.	— floccosa	Do.
Inflated do.	— vesicata	Do.
River do.	— rivularis	Do.

* This is the celebrated Iceland moss, made into cakes and eaten by the Icelanders, with grateful thanks, at a time when other food is scarce. It is used medicinally in this country as a demulcent in coughs, &c.

† "This," says Hooker, p. 225, "appears to hold the place in northern regions, which *Rocella tinctoria* does in the southern."

‡ This affords food to the rein-deer in winter, as well as the *cladonia*; but as it is principally found on trees, these (when the snow is frozen) are purposely cut down that the animals may more readily obtain it.

ENGLISH NAMES.	LATIN NAMES.	LOCALITY.
Inflated Zygnema	Zygnema inflatum	Bogs, Heytor Down.
Orange Chroolepus	Chroolepus aureus	Rocks on the moor. (M.)
	Sub. Ord.—Gloiocladæ.	
Rosy Palmella	Palmella rosea	Woods, Manaton.
Plaited Nostoc	Nostoc verrucosum	Rocks and Streams. (M.)
Common do.	—— commune	Dartmoor.
Ord. 106.—Mushrooms. 106.— <i>Fungi</i> .		
Black-scaled Agaric	Agaricus melleus	Manaton.
Subacid rufous do.	—— lactifluus	Do.
Tawny do.	—— farinaceus	Do.
Moss do.	—— hypnorum	Heytor, and near Prison.
Cinnamon Polyporus	Polyporus perennis	Woods, Moreton.
Real Amadou	—— fomentarius	Manaton.
Pepper Boletus	Boletus piperatus	Do.
Common Stinkhorn	Phallus impudicus	Beckey Fall.

The preceding list is confessedly an incomplete one; the formation of a botanical collection is a work of time; that of Dartmoor can only be perfectly accomplished by one who has leisure to reside on the spot; by others, casual visits must be made at particular periods, during the flowering of the various plants, and that often under many disadvantages, where the botanist in the absence of all shelter, is exposed to sudden changes of weather, and frequently drenched to the skin: such a misadventure becomes an effectual damper to his zeal and ardour in the pursuit. Some unlucky instances of this kind, are the excuse which the writer of this notice must plead for his deficiencies of the present contribution. The specimens noticed in the Flora Devonensis are chiefly from the east side of the moor, whilst those marked (M.) have been procured in the wild and less cultivated district on the west side, within a circle of ten miles, taking Two-Bridges as a centre.

Where the succession of the orders is not numerically followed, in the preceding catalogue, it arises from the writer not having obtained plants belonging to those which are omitted.

Instead of carping at such a catalogue as is here presented, the readers of the Perambulation, will, I am persuaded, agree with me in feeling grateful to Dr. Moore, whose interest in the natural history of his own neighbourhood has led him to find time from the important professional duties of a physician, practising in a populous town, to furnish the present ample list of the principal Plants, with the following catalogue of the rarer Birds of the district, besides his valuable papers on the Geology and Agricultural Capabilities of Dartmoor.—S. R.

APPENDIX,

No. IV.

ORNITHOLOGY OF DARTMOOR.

By EDWARD MOORE, M.D., F.L.S., late Secretary to the Plymouth Institution.

THE catalogue of Dartmoor birds will be found of a much more limited character than the wildness of its aspect would lead us to expect. The preservation of game, induces a watchful scrutiny of the district, and no sooner does one of the elegant falcon tribe make its appearance, than, under the name of vermin, it becomes a sacrifice to the merciless gin or the gun of the gamekeeper. The progress of cultivation, also, has tended to drive away the antient denizens of the Forest, and the eagle, the bustard, the crane, and the kite are now but seldom to be met with. The black cock is fast disappearing, and though the ring-ouzel still clings to the locality, yet it may not be long ere the extension of civilized life may deprive it of its resting-place. The chronicler of the day, however, must take nature as he finds it, and be content to register the changes which time in its progress may effect. The present state of the moor still exhibits that dreary character, which excites the admiration of the poet, and the explorer of nature will yet discover many a spot where he may fancy himself to be far removed from the busy haunts of men, where the view is bounded by the surrounding tors and sky, and the awful silence, which reigns around, will afford ample scope for divine contemplation, only interrupted perhaps by the sudden flight of the ring-ouzel, scared by his presence from its nest; or he may occasionally be startled from his reverie by the screams of the curlew, or the shrill whistle of the lapwing or golden plover.

The aerial visitants of the moor itself are generally those whose wild nature precludes their descending into the lower grounds; but the greater cultivation on its eastward side has occasioned its ornithology to be there of a mixed character, while around its borders, where

good shelter occurs, we shall find most of the rarer specimens belonging to the climate. The frequenters of the uncultivated parts are now chiefly the sparrow-hawk, the hobby, the goshawk, the hen-harrier, the brown, or marsh harrier, and the buzzard. In the neighbourhood of the solitary turf cottage, may be found the crow, blackbird, thrush, the redbreast, sparrow, chaffinch, and wren, and occasionally the swallow and martin. Near the water-courses, are the wagtails, the kingfisher, and water-ouzel. On the open downs and heaths, are the skylark, titlark, wheatear, mountain-linnet, black-grouse, quail, golden, great, and grey plovers, lapwing, dotterel, curlew, whimbrel, snipe, purre, and sanderling. The common gull is an occasional visitor, and the ring-ouzel remains the greater part of the year.

The great facility, which occurs in the neighbourhood of the moor, for procuring specimens, has occasioned considerable attention to be paid to ornithological pursuits, and collections have been made in various parts of Devonshire. Besides those of Exeter, and of Ashburton, (formed by the late Dr. Tucker,) I have derived assistance from the following sources:—

- Museum of the Right Hon. the Earl of Morley, at Saltram.
- in the Park of the Right Hon. the Earl of Mt. Edgcumbe.
- of the Rev. K. Vaughan, Aveton Gifford.*
- of John Newton, Esq., Millaton, Bridestow.
- of the late W. Comyns, Esq., Mount Pleasant, Dawlish.*
- of Richard Julian, Esq., at Estover.
- of the Rev. Collins Trelawney, at Ham.
- of Sir George Magrath, M.D., Plymouth.
- of J. Whipple, Esq., Plymouth.
- of Edward Moore, M.D., Plymouth.
- of Mr. Bolitho, Plymouth.
- of Mr. J. B. Rowe, Plymouth.
- of the Athenæum, Plymouth.
- of the Natural History Society, Plymouth.
- of the late Mr. Drew, Stonehouse.
- of the Rev. W. S. Hore, Stoke.
- of Cornelius Tripe, Esq., Devonport.
- of Mr. Row, Devonport.
- of J. Pincombe, Devonport.

The following list will include all that I can learn have been found on the moor itself, for which the authority will be given, either of the capture or of the collection in which the specimen may be now

* Now dispersed.

seen, which in the case of Mr. Drew, Mr. Bolitho, J. Pincombe, and myself, will be distinguished by the initials D. B. P. M. respectively. Those which breed on the moor, will have the letter (*b*) appended to the name, and the occurrence of any very rare bird in the neighbourhood will be noticed in a separate list, the circumstances respecting which will be detailed.

RAPTORES.

Sea Eagle, or Erne—*Aquila albicilla*. A specimen obtained near the Eddystone, some years ago, was kept alive by the late Addis Archer, Esq., at Leigham. One, at Drew's, was shot in 1834, near Bridestow; another, frequently seen on Dartmoor, in 1832, was shot in October of that year, near Kingsbridge, by W. Elliot, Esq. Polwhele* mentions a black eagle as formerly having a nest in the woods of Eggeford, (a corruption of Eaglesford?) and states it to have been frequently seen on the moor.

The Osprey—*Pandion haliaetus*. Frequently seen on the moor, says Polwhele. Several specimens have been obtained: two in May, 1831, at Estover; another in September, 1831, is at Saltram; one on the Avon, at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's; another on the same river, now in the Rev. W. S. Hore's collection.

Peregrine Falcon, or Cliff Hawk—*Falco peregrinus*. Seen on Dartmoor during the migrating seasons. One caught in a trap, at Mutley, in 1831, is at Sir G. Magrath's; others in the collection of the Athenæum, Mr. J. B. Rowe, and D. B. P.

Hobby Falcon—*Falco subbuteo*. Breeds in Devon, according to Polwhele. In Lydford woods, Mr. Newton. Mr. G. Leach says, also, in Chebitor Wood. Specimens at Millaton, Ham, and one in my possession, shot at Warleigh, June, 1830.

Kestrel—*Falco tinnunculus*. Mr. Newton, D. B. P. M.

Goshawk—*Astur palumbarius*. Seen on the moor. A specimen, at Bolitho's, was shot on the nest, near South Tawton, in 1830.

Sparrow Hawk—*Accipiter fringillarius*. Mr. Newton, Mr. Rowe, D. B. P. M.

Kite—*Milvus vulgaris*. A specimen caught at Trowlsworthy warren, Dartmoor, is in Capt. Morshead's collection, at Widey, 1831; another at Saltram; one at Sydenham's, 1835; D. B.; but is annually becoming more rare.

Common Buzzard—*Buteo vulgaris*. Mr. Newton, D. B. P. M.

Hen Harrier(*b*)—*Circus pygargus*. Mr. Leach, D. B. P. M., m. and f., at Saltram.

Marsh Harrier, or Moor Buzzard(*b*)—*Circus rufus*. Mr. Leach, Mr. Newton, B. M.

INSESSORES.

Water Ouzel(*b*)—*Cinclus aquaticus*. Mr. Leach, D. B. M.

Missel Thrush(*b*)—*Turdus viscivorus*. M. B. D. P.

* *History of Devonshire.*

- Song Thrush (*b*)—*Turdus musicus*. M. B. P. D.
 Fieldfare—*Turdus pilaris*. M. B. P. D.
 Redwing—*Turdus iliacus*. M. B. P. D.
 Blackbird (*b*)—*Turdus merula*. M. B. P. D.
 Ring Ouzel (*b*)—*Turdus torquatus*. Migrates in October ; returns in April
 and breeds about the tors. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Hedge Warbler (*b*)—*Accentor modularis*. M. D. B.
 Redbreast (*b*)—*Sylvia rubecula*. D. B. M.
 Stonechat (*b*)—*Saxicola rubicola*. Mr. Leach, D. B. M.
 Whinchat (*b*)—*Saxicola rubetra*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Wheatear (*b*)—*Saxicola ænanthe*. Mr. Leach, D. B. M.
 Pied Wagtail (*b*)—*Motacilla yarrellii*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Grey Wagtail—*Motacilla boarula*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Ray's (yellow) Wagtail—*Motacilla flava*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Tit, or Meadow Pipit (*b*)—*Anthus pratensis*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Skylark (*b*)—*Alauda arvensis*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Woodlark—*Alauda arborea*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Snow, or Tawny Bunting—*Plectrophanes nivalis*. Mr. Newton, D. B.
 Yellow Bunting—*Emberiza miliaria*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Chaffinch—*Fringilla cælebs*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Brambling—*Fringilla montifringilla*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Mountain Sparrow—*Pyrgita montana*. Polwhele.
 Sparrow (*b*)—*Pyrgita domestica*. M. D. B.
 Twite—*Linaria montana*. Polwhele, D. M.
 Bulfinch—*Pyrrhula vulgaris*. Mr. Leach, M. D. B.
 Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris*. Mr. Leach, Mr. Newton, B. M.
 Raven (*b*)—*Corvus corax*. Breeds on the moor, (Mr. Leach ;) at Tavy
 Cleave, (Rev. S. Rowe ;) on Dewerstone, (E. Moore.)
 Crow—*Corvus corone*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.
 Hooded Crow (*b*)—*Corvus cornix*. Said, by Pennant, (*Zoology*, vol. 2,) to
 breed on the moor, but resorts to the coasts in the winter : is becoming very
 scarce however. One at Mr. J. B. Rowe's, D. B.
 Rook—*Corvus frugilegus*. D. M.
 Jack-daw—*Corvus monedula*. D. M.
 Magpie—*Pica caudata*. M. D. B.
 Wren (*b*)—*Troglodytes vulgaris*. M. B.
 Hoopoe—*Upupa epops*. Polwhele says it was shot on Dartmoor. Speci-
 mens have been obtained at Millaton, Warleigh, Ham, and Saltram.
 Cuckoo—*Cuculus canorus*. M. D. B.
 Kingfisher (*b*)—*Alcedo hispida*. Mr. Leach, M. B.
 Swallow—*Hirundo rustica*. Mr. Leach, M.
 Martin—*Hirundo urbica*. Mr. Leach, M.
 Swift—*Hirundo apus*. Mr. Leach, M.
 The swallows and martins, after leaving the nest, roost in large flocks in the low
 brushwood of the borders of the moor.

RASORES.

- Black Grouse (*b*)—*Tetrao tetrix*. Mr. Newton, M. B.
 Red Grouse—*Lagopus scoticus*. A single specimen of this bird was shot on

Dartmoor, in October, a few years since, by Mr. Newton, in whose collection it remains. I am also informed by Mr. C. Prideaux, of Dodbrook, that a female of the same species was shot near Stokenham, a few years since, by Mr. Case, (on the estate named France,) in whose possession it now is.

White Ptarmigan—*Lagopus mutus*. A single specimen of this bird, in summer plumage, was also shot on Dartmoor, in October, by Mr. Newton, who still has it in his museum.

Partridge(b)—*Perdix cinerea*. Mr. Leach, B. M.

Quail—*Perdix coturnix*. Mr. Leach, B. M. In 1846, a quail, on a nest with nine eggs, was killed by a scythe, in a field of Mr. C. Prideaux's, at Dodbrook. Polwhele has seen the eggs also in the parish of Sherford.

GRALLATORES.

Great Plover—*Ædicnemus crepitans*. Rev. S. Rowe, M. B., and at Ham.

Golden Plover(b)—*Charadrius pluvialis*. Mr. Leach, Mr. Newton, D. B. M. Young broods often seen on the moor.

Dotterel—*Charadrius morinellus*. Rev. S. Rowe, M. Several of these seen by Mr. Rowe on Chittaford Down, in September, 1828. My specimen was shot on Dartmoor, in April, 1840.

Lapwing(b)—*Vanellus cristatus*. Mr. Newton, B. M.

These, and the golden plover, are found in flocks, towards winter, on the borders of the moor, and are brought to market in great numbers.

Sanderling(b)—*Charadrius calidris*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M. Often mistaken for, and not so numerous as, the purre. It is seen on the moor, from April to July.

Crane—*Grus cinerea*. Cranmere Pool, on Dartmoor, is supposed, by some, to be so named, from the resort of cranes there in antient times. A fine specimen, at Drew's, was shot on the borders, (at Buckland Monachorum,) in 1826.

Black Stork—*Ciconia nigra*. A fine specimen was seen on the moor in 1831, which was afterwards shot on the banks of the Tamar, and is now in Drew's collection.

Little Bittern—*Botaurus minutus*. Bridestow. Mr. Newton.

Night Heron—*Nycticorax europæus*. Occasionally seen on the borders of the moor. Specimens have been shot at Leigham. Two were in the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's collection, shot at Aveton Gifford.

Glossy Ibis—*Ibis falcinellus*. Borders of the moor. Shot at Warleigh; also near Bridestow, by Mr. Newton.

Curlew(b)—*Numenius arquata*. Breeds on the swamps of the moor. Specimens at Millaton, Saltram, D. B. M., &c.

Spotted Sandpiper—*Totanus macularia*. Mr. Newton, M.

Woodcock(b)—*Scolopax rusticola*. Polwhele says it breeds on Dartmoor. In May, 1830, a young bird was shot at Cann Down, near Bickleigh Vale, which is in the collection at Saltram.

Snipe(b)—*Scolopax gallinago*. Mr. Leach, D. B. M.

Great Snipe—*Scolopax major*. Rev. S. Hore. In November, 1846, a servant of Sir Anthony Buller, shot a fine specimen on Dartmoor, which was sent to Mr. Leach, who informed me of the circumstance, it is now in the museum of the Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society. One at Mr. Row's.

Jack Snipe—*Scolopax gallinula*. Mr. Newton, B. M.

Dunlin, or Purre (*b*)—*Tringa alpina*. Breeds on the moor, and congregates in flocks on the Lary in winter. M. D. B. P.

Land Rail (*b*)—*Crex pratensis*. Mr. Leach, D. M. B.

Water Rail—*Rallus aquaticus*. Mr. Leach, D. M. B.

Moor Hén (*h*)—*Gallinula chloropus*. Mr. Leach, M.

Coot (*b*)—*Fulica atra*. Polwhele, Mr. Newton, M. Stated by Capt. Laskey to breed there. (See *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 66.)

NATATOIRES.

Wild, or Grey-legged Goose—*Anser palustris*. Rare. Sometimes seen on the moor, with other wild fowl. Mr. Newton had a specimen ; several were brought to market during the severe winter of 1830.

Bean Goose—*Anser segetum*. Mr. Newton, B. M.

White-fronted Goose—*Anser albifrons*. Mr. Newton, Saltram, M. B.

Whistling Swan—*Cygnus ferus*. Seen on the moor. One at Saltram, shot on the Lary. Several were obtained on the borders, in 1830.

Wild Duck (*b*)—*Anas boschas*. Mr. Leach, B. M.

Teal—*Querquedula crecca*. Mr. Leach, D. B. M.

Herring Gull—*Larus argentatus*. Breeds on the coast. I saw one on Dartmoor, October, 1846. These, with the black-backed, and red-legged gulls, curlews, and purrees, visit the Lary and other sand-banks in great numbers, on the retreat of the tide.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

The following list contains those which, though not known as moor birds, yet having been obtained in the district through which the Dartmoor rivers take their course to the sea, and being rarely procured, are considered to be worth recording :—

Golden Eagle—*Aquila chysaetos*. Has been associated traditionally with Dartmoor ; and Mr. Gosling, of Leigham, who was well-acquainted with the subject, informed me that there was an old standing report, that its nest was formerly known on the Dewerstone.

Gyr Falcon—*Hierofalco gyrfalco*. Mentioned by Polwhele. A fine specimen obtained on the Lynher River, Feb. 7, 1834, is now at Pincombe's.

Merlin—*Falco aesalon*. Polwhele says that Mr. Elford saw several taken from a nest on Roborough Down. Mr. Leach thinks this must have been the hobby, as the merlin, is a winter visitant. Specimens at Mr. Newton's, D. B. M.

Rough-legged Buzzard—*Buteo lagopus*. One at Drew's, shot at Egg Buckland, November, 1836 ; another at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's ; also specimens at Bolitho's and Pincombe's.

Montagu's Harrier—*Circus cineraceus*. A specimen shot at Stover, 1809 ; others at Saltram, Drew's, and Pincombe's.

Snowy Owl—*Strix nyctea*. One at the Rev. Mr. Hore's, shot on Millbrook Lake.

Long-eared Owl—*Otus vulgaris*. A pair shot at Buckland Abbey by Mr. William Gill, in April, 1846. Specimens at D. B. P.

Short-eared Owl—*Otus brachyotus*. Saltram, M.

Grey Shrike—*Lanius excubitor*. Polwhele; one shot at Leigham, 1815, in my possession; one seen at Ham, 1830. Mr. Newton has one, shot near Millaton.

Pied Flycatcher—*Muscicapa atricapilla*. Mount Edgecumbe, Rev. Mr. Hore.

Golden Oriole—*Oriolus galbula*. Specimens have been obtained at Okehampton Park, by Mr. Newton, also by Mr. Julian, at Estover, and at Mount Edgecumbe.

Grasshopper Warbler—*Salicaria locustella*. Rare. A specimen, shot at Leigham, is in my collection; another in the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's; one also at Bolitho's and Mr. Row's.

Dartford Warbler—*Melizophilus Dartfordiensis*. Specimens at Drew's and Bolitho's.

Firecrest—*Regulus ignicapillus*. A specimen at Pincombe's.

Bearded Titmouse—*Calamophilus biarmicus*. Specimens at Mr. Tripe's, Mr. Comyns's, and four at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's.

Bohemian Wax-wing—*Bombycilla garrula*. At Saltram, Mr. J. B. Rowe, D. B. M.

Richard's Lark—*Anthus Richardi*. Rev. Mr. Hore and Mr. Row.

Hawfinch—*Coccothraustes vulgaris*. Mr. Newton, D. B. M.

Siskin—*Linaria spinus*. Mr. Julian, B. P. In the autumn of 1836, five caught in a trap, on the lines, at Devonport. One at Saltram, shot at Langdon.

Parrot Crossbill—*Loxia pityopsittacus*. Rare. Mr. Newton shot nine of them near Millaton, in 1838.

Nutcracker—*Nucifraga caryocatactes*. Montagu, Comyns, &c.

Rose Ouzel—*Pastor roseus*. Two specimens sent to the British Museum, from Aveton Gifford, by the Rev. Mr. Vaughan; another shot there, June, 1834. Seen also at Saltram.

Great Black Woodpecker—*Picus martius*. A specimen is in Mr. Newton's collection, which was shot near Crediton.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker—*Picus major*. Two shot near Modbury, August, 15th, 1830; another in December, at Mr. Whipple's. One in my possession, shot at Beer, 1834. Two and a nest obtained in Ham Woods, 1835.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker—*Picus minor*. One from Okehampton, at Drew's; one shot near Kingsbridge, by Mr. W. Prideaux, June 1838, in my possession; one shot by Mr. Row, at Antony, 1846.

Wryneck—*Yunx torquilla*. One shot at Leigham, in my collection; one, at Millaton; another, at Ham. Another caught by a lime twig, on Lipson Hill, July, 1831.

Bee-eater—*Merops apiaster*. One at Leigham, 1818; another at Ivybridge, 1822; another at Mr. J. B. Rowe's, Plymouth.

Rock Dove, or Cliff Culver—*Columba livia*. One from Plymouth Market, December, 1818, in my collection, shot near Egg Buckland.

Turtle Dove—*Columba turtur*. One obtained in Estover Lawn, 1829, by Mr. Julian. D. B. M. and Mr. J. B. Rowe.

Red-legged Partridge—*Perdix rubra*. Mr. Newton shot one of these on Broadbury Moor, near Bridestow, which is now in his collection.

Great Bustard—*Otis tarda*. Plymouth, 1798; Montagu; and at Houndale, near Dartmoor, 1799; Rev. S. Rowe.

Little Bustard—*Otis tetraz*. Two mentioned by Montagu. One shot near Bigbury, in the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's collection.

Purple Heron—*Ardea purpurea*. One seen on the Plym, April, 1824 ; another, near Fleet, 1836. A specimen shot near Aveton Gifford, was sold at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's sale, in March, 1847.

Great White Heron—*Ardea alba*. Seen by the Rev. Mr. Vaughan on Aveton Gifford River, in 1805. (See *Montagu's Supplement*.)

Little Egret—*Ardea garzetta*. Shot on the Dart, in 1816. Rev. Mr. Holdsworth. A specimen is in Mr. Newton's collection, shot near Crediton.

Spoonbill—*Platalea leucorodia*. A specimen, shot on the Tamar, is in Mr. C. Tripe's collection ; another, killed on Millbrook Lake, is at Bolitho's. A Devon specimen was sold at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's, March, 1847.

Avocet—*Recurvirostra avocetta*. Mr. Tripe has one from the Tamar ; Mr. Bolitho, one from the Tavy ; another, from Kingsbridge River, is at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's.

Ruff—*Machetes pugnax*. Mr. Drew has a young bird—a fine male in summer plumage, shot near Aveton Gifford : sold, at the Rev. Mr. Vaughan's, in 1847.

Brown Snipe—*Macroramphus griseus*. A specimen at Drew's.

Temminck's Stint—*Tringa temminckii*. At Bolitho's.

Little Crake—*Crex pusilla*. Mr. Newton shot this bird on the borders of a rivulet, running through the lawn, at Millaton. One at Drew's, caught in the streets of Devonport.

APPENDIX,

No. V.

WILD QUADRUPEDS, &c. OF THE MOOR.

By EDWARD MOORE, M.D., F.L.S., late Secretary to the Plymouth Institution.

THERE is reason to suppose that in former days, when Dartmoor was retained as a royal Forest, it might have been tenanted by more noble game than are now to be met with on its surface. The red deer are now driven to the more northern portions of the county, about Exmoor, and, I believe, are gradually disappearing altogether, the annual hunt being only kept up by the zeal of a few sportsmen, who protect them for this purpose.* The fox, hare, and otter are now the principal objects of pursuit. Badger-baiting being discontinued in consequence of the existence of a more humane feeling among the people.

A collection of the moor quadrupeds was made by Mr. George Leach, which he presented to the Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society. Specimens which I have obtained, (chiefly from Weir, of Trowlsworthy warren,) I have placed in the museum of the Plymouth Institution.

CHEIROPTERA.

Great Bat—*Vespertilio noctula*. Common about Ashburton and Haldon. Mr. T. Abraham.

Common do.—*Vespertilio pipistrellus*. Plymouth Institution.

Long-eared do.—*Plecotus auritus*. Plymouth Institution.

Great Horse-shoe Bat—*Rhinolophus ferrum-equinum*.

INSECTIVORA.

Hedgehog—*Erinaceus Europæus*. Plymouth Institution.

* A paragraph in the *Plymouth Herald*, July 13, 1847, states that the Honourable Newton Fellowes intended hunting for the season, on the 11th of August, at Brendon Barton, near Lynmouth, and that deer were plentiful.

Mole—*Talpa vulgaris*. Plymouth Institution.
 Common Shrew—*Sorex araneus*. Rev. Mr. Hore.
 Water Shrew—*Sorex fodiens*. Plymouth Institution.

CARNIVORA.

Badger—*Meles taxus*.
 Otter*—*Lutra vulgaris*.
 Common Weazel, or Ferry—*Mustela vulgaris*. Plymouth Institution.
 Stoat, or Ermine—*Mustela erminea*. Plymouth Institution.
 Polecat, or Fitchet—*Mustela putorius*. Plymouth Institution.
 Common Marten—*Martes foina*. D. and C. Natural History Society.
 Pine Marten—*Martes abietum*. D. and C. Natural History Society.
 Fox—*Vulpes vulgaris*. D. and C. Natural History Society.

RODENTIA.

Squirrel†—*Sciurus vulgaris*. Plymouth Institution.
 Dormouse—*Myoxus avellanarius*.
 Harvest Mouse—*Mus messorius*.
 Long-tailed Field do.—*Mus sylvaticus*.
 Common do.—*Mus musculus*.
 Black Rat—*Mus rattus*.
 Brown do.‡—*Mus decumanus*.
 Water Vole—*Arvicola amphibius*.
 Field do.—*Arvicola agrestis*. Rev. Mr. Hore.
 Bank do.—*Arvicola pratensis*. Rev. Mr. Hore.
 Common Hare—*Lepus timidus*.
 Rabbit§—*Lepus cuniculus*.

* The otter is frequently seen on the moor, and sometimes hunted in its vicinity. It seems to frequent the sea as well as the rivers, since great numbers of them occupy a hole at the Devil's Point, near the Royal William Yard, where they may be frequently seen sporting of an evening.

† Squirrels are found in abundance in woods all round the borders of the moor.

‡ Varieties often occur on the moor; I possess one of a yellowish white, another of a reddish white, both caught in traps at Trowlesworthy warren.

§ These animals are preserved in warrens, at Ditsworthy and Trowlesworthy on the moor, surrounded by enclosures to prevent them from straying. Traps are set in the walls, whence most of the wild animals of the preceding list have been obtained.

FISHES OF DARTMOOR.

Most of the streams of Dartmoor are so shallow, so rapid from the abrupt elevation of the ground, and so exposed to sudden freshets from heavy rains, as to be not well calculated for the resort of a large variety of fishes; the principal species are of the family *Salmonidæ*, and even these, from the depredations committed by netters and anglers, have but little opportunity of reaching their full growth, seldom, in the higher grounds, exceeding five or six inches in length, and rarely acquiring half a pound in weight.* They all pass under the name of trout, but in truth there are several other species among them. Mr. Spence, of Mutley, has for some time been occupied in investigating the progress of the growth of the young salmon, so as to test the assertion of Mr. Shaw,† that the parr is the young of the salmon, at one period of its growth; for this purpose he has been supplied weekly with fresh fish from the neighbouring rivers, from February to August, 1847. On examining his collection, I find that he has obtained fishes, distinctly retaining the characters of the parr, during the whole of the months of July and August, at which time it is generally understood that the young salmon of the previous year have lost those marks, have acquired their silvery coats, and gone down to the sea as smolts; at the same time the pinks of the year are increasing in size, being in August about five inches long, assuming the smolt dress, while the parrs are mostly eight inches long, retaining their lateral markings, and instead of being silvery, are yellowish in colour like the trout, hence it follows that this is a distinct fish from the salmon; in this case an opinion opposed to that of Mr. Shaw, would seem to be a necessary consequence.‡

The following fishes are found in the rivers of the moor, chiefly in the young state.

Order, MALACOPERGII ABDOMINALES—FAM. SALMONIDÆ.

The Salmon—*Salmo salar*. Abundant as salmon-pink, (three inches long,) and as they become larger, they are found lower down the rivers, (until the

* On one occasion a trout, 2½lbs. weight, was obtained by Mr. J. Pridham, near Two Bridges; and another, of nearly 4lbs., was caught by Mr. Hearder.

† *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*, July, 1836, and January, 1838.

‡ See Mr. YARRELL'S *British Fishes*, vol. 2, p. 43, and *Treatise on the growth of Salmon in fresh water*.

spring of their second year, says Mr. Shaw,) when changing to salmon-smolt, they migrate to the sea. I am not aware that any have been obtained on the moor as salmon-peal, or grilse,* which perhaps from the impediments of weirs, hutches, and fishermen is scarcely to be expected, but occasionally a full-grown salmon has been seen.

Bull-trout, or Roundtail—*Salmo eriox*. The young is the whiting of the Tweed; it is found in the Plym and Tavy, whence Mr. Spence has obtained specimens: it is also sometimes termed a Truffe.

Salmon-trout—*Salmo trutta*. The whitefish of Devonshire,—sea-trout of Pennant,—found in the Dartmoor rivers. Mr. Spence, however, imagines that this has been mistaken for the young of the former.

Parr, or Samlet—*Salmo salmulus*. Termed also brandling, or fingerling; skegger, on the Thames; hepper, on the Dart. Very numerous in the Plym and Tavy.

Trout—*Salmo fario*. Also numerous. These fish are sometimes obtained by tickling; I have seen half-a-dozen an hour caught by a farmer's boy in this manner, by wading into the river under shady banks or small bridges.

Order, MALACOPTERIGII APODES—FAM. MURÆNIDÆ.

Sharp-nosed Eel—*Anguilla acutirostris*. These are found in great plenty, and are frequently caught by a ground line, baited with worm, in sheltered nooks during freshets.

The Snig—*Anguilla mediorostris*. At Mr. Spence's, from the Plym.

Another Eel has been obtained by Mr. Spence, which Mr. Yarrell thinks to be a distinct species.

Order, CHONDROPTERYGII—FAM. PETROMYZIDÆ.

River Lamprey—*Petromyzon fluviatilis*. Found in the Dartmoor rivers, according to Polwhele.

* Young salmon, if under two pounds weight, are termed salmon-peal, if above that, grilse. The bull-trout and salmon-trout are often erroneously called salmon-peal.

Mr. Spence has acquired a method of preserving the colours of his fish for a considerable period; the method pursued is as follows:—As soon as the fish is caught it is put into a bag or basket of bran, so as to preserve the scales from friction; this is afterwards carefully washed off, and the skin of one side, with the head, tail, and fins, is dissected off the body of the fish, taking care not to separate the true skin from the cuticle; this is laid on a dry towel, and in twelve hours is properly arranged. The fish is thus allowed to dry gradually, and is submitted to gentle pressure slowly increased. About the fourth day the skin may be removed to a board, the red spots touched over with a little red ochre, and the black spots on the gill-covers with black varnish. The pressure is still continued, and when thoroughly dry, the skin may be removed to paper and varnished over with common or isinglass varnish. In this manner the colours have been preserved, at present, for two years.

APPENDIX,

No. VI.

HISTORICAL VIEW OF MINING IN DARTMOOR, AND THE PRECINCTS.

By THE AUTHOR.

IN the course of the foregoing Perambulation, we have been led to make frequent reference to the mines and tin trade of Britain in the earliest ages, in connexion with the vestiges of antient stream-works, still existing in our moorland district. Many particulars of great interest, are preserved by the Greek writers; but although there can be no doubt that mining operations were carried on by the Romans, subsequently to those which had been successively undertaken in the times of the Phœnicians and Massilian Greeks, the information to be gathered from Latin authors on these interesting subjects is of limited extent and incidental character.

Cicero, (who appears to have been misinformed,) observes that no silver is produced in Britain. Cæsar, as we have already seen, confines himself to a notice of the *plumbum album*, raised in the interior, and the iron, which, in small quantities, (*exigua copia*,) was found near the coast. Even so late as the time of the Spanish geographer, Pomponius Mela, (who wrote about A.D. 45,) it would appear that little information could then be gleaned, since he indulges a hope that many more particulars would be obtained concerning the nature of the country, and its productions, than had yet transpired, *qualis sit qualesque progenerat, mox certiora et magis explorata dicentur*. Still, the reputation of the tin islands was firmly established; and the same author describes Britain, as abounding in wood and water, and in its estuaries, producing gems and pearls. *Fert nemora, saltusque, ac prægrandia flumina, alternis motibus, modo in pelagum, modo retro fluentia, et quædam gemmas, margaritasque generantia*.* With regard to the pearls and gems, we have no certain information, but the

* POMP. MELA, de situ Orbis, lib. iii., cap. 8. Isca Dunm, 1711.

other particulars apply with much exactness to the district contiguous to Dartmoor, and to the rivers which issue from its heights, and flow through the tin districts to the sea, such as the Tavy, the Tamar, and the Plym. Nor can we imagine that so powerful and enterprising a nation as the Romans, would have failed to employ their supremacy in Britain, to the obvious purpose of sharing in that branch of commerce, for which the Cassiterides had been so long celebrated, and which had been so eagerly pursued, for so many ages by the Phœnicians and Greeks in succession. Norden, accordingly, explicitly affirms that "the Romans also took their turn to searche for this commoditie, as is supposed by certain of their monies which have been found in some old workes renewed."* They seem not only to have engrossed the whole of the tin trade, but to have improved the mining system, by various inventions and processes, which taught the Britons to apply to their domestic purposes a metal that had before been only useful to them as an article of commerce.

Nothing material is recorded of the history of mining operations in the west, during the Saxon period. The miseries of barbarian invasion, which afflicted the whole province, after the withdrawal of the Roman legions, extended to Devonshire. And long after the eastern parts of south Britain had enjoyed comparative tranquillity, under the Saxon sovereigns, the braver inhabitants of the west, still contending for their independence, and resisting the Saxon yoke, experienced the miseries which must ever attend those countries which are made the seat of war. This was peculiarly the case with the south-western parts of Devon; perpetual battles and skirmishes took place between the British and the Saxons, who had overrun the country west of Exeter, but had never conquered it. Nor was it until the reign of Athelstan, that the Tamar became the acknowledged boundary between the invaders and the antient possessors of the soil, although the Danmonian peninsula had been previously divided into the counties of Devon and Cornwall, and nominally included in the kingdom of Wessex. Under such circumstances we need not wonder at the absence of all notice of mining operations or commercial enterprise; as the unsettled state of public affairs would necessarily affect the peaceful pursuits of trade and commerce in the most prejudicial manner. To the incursions of the Saxons, succeeded the piratical forays of the Danish freebooters, who found ready access to the heart of the country by the navigable rivers, Tamar and Tavy, as when they destroyed the monastery of Tavistock and the town of Lydford, in 997, and carried fire and sword through the stannary districts of Devon. These constant alarms must have materially injured the tin trade, as well as all other branches of commerce; yet it is thought that there must have been a large demand for tin, in the sixth and following centuries, from the general use of bells in churches, which began to prevail from that period throughout Europe; and which, it

* NORDEN'S *Cornwall*. Lond. 1728, p. 12.

is well known, are cast in a mixed metal, into which tin enters largely as an indispensable ingredient.

Under the firmer rule of the Norman conqueror, mining operations in the west once more revived. The works appear to have been chiefly in the hands of Jews, whose ancestors it is supposed by Carew, and other authors, had been thus employed from the time of the Romans downwards, having been brought hither as captives after the overthrow of Jerusalem, or else having found their way into those remote lands in consequence of the general dispersion which took place after that calamitous event. Traces of the outcasts of Israel, thus dispersed to the ends of the earth, under the ban of Almighty vengeance, are still to be observed in the mining districts of the west, especially in Cornwall. From the Norman conquest to the reign of John,* the Jews engrossed the tin which was raised, and which, according to Borlase, was inconsiderable in Cornwall, the whole tin farm in that county being only 100 marks, while the tin of Devon was at the same time farmed for £100. In the reign of Henry III. the tin mines were worked by the same people, with increased effect, but upon the banishment of that oppressed race, by Edward I., mining affairs became neglected. "Afterwards," says Carew, "certain gentlemen, being lords of Blackmore, whose grounds were best stored with this mineral, (tin,) grewe desirous to renew this benefit, and so upon suite made to Edmond, Earl of Cornwall, sonne to Richard, king of the Romans, they obtained from him a charter, with sundrie privileges, amongst which it was granted them to keepe a court, and hold plea of all actions, (lyfe, lymme, and land excepted,) in consideration whereof the said lords accorded to pay the Earle a halfpenny for every pound of tynne which should be wrought." This charter applied to the whole duchy, and therefore included Dartmoor and the Devon mines in general. It also directed, that certain places should be appointed as stannary towns, and authorised the holding of stannary parliaments. It was confirmed, together with that of King John, by the charter of Edward I., in the thirty-third year of his reign. From this time the peculiar laws and customs relating to the stannaries are chiefly to be dated; many of which, are still in force, though not to such an extent as in former times when, with respect to tanners, the stannary courts exercised an exclusive jurisdiction.†

From this period also the tanners of Devon and Cornwall, who previously formed but one body, (meeting on Hingston Hill, near Callington, every seventh or eighth year, to concert their common interest,) became divided, and formed distinct bodies of men.‡ Five

* This monarch granted a charter to the tanners of Devon and Cornwall, (3rd John, 29th October, 1201,) a copy of which, from the rolls, in the Record Office, Tower, is given in *DE LA BECHE'S Report*, (p. 627,) and is added at the end of this Appendix.

† They now take cognizance of all causes, relative to tin mines, and have still considerable jurisdiction and peculiar privileges.

‡ From this time also, probably, the Devonshire stannators began to hold their stannary parliaments at Crockern Tor, in the centre of Dartmoor.

fostering care which this renowned queen extended to every object, which might enlarge the resources, or contribute to the greatness of her government. As skilful miners were probably not then to be found in England, from the interruption which had taken place in carrying on works of this sort, she invited over Germans to open mines in different parts of the kingdom.* It is generally believed that the lead and silver mines, at Beer Ferrers and Combe Martin, were extensively worked in this reign, although these mines are not noticed by any contemporary writers on the subject.†

The impulse given by the illustrious Elizabeth to these mining operations, seems to have reached to the succeeding reigns at least, since Risdon, who began his Survey in 1605, and completed it in 1630, gives an account of the mining labourers, which leads to the conclusion that they must have then formed an extensive class among the inhabitants of the county. "There are also labourers, that serve for daily wages, whereof be two sorts; the one is called a spadiard,‡ a daily labourer in tin works, with whom there is no labourer in hardness of life to be compared, for his apparel is coarse, his diet slender, his lodging hard, his drink water, and for lack of a cup, he commonly drinketh out of his spade or shovel, or some such thing, without curiosity in satisfying nature. His life most commonly is in pits under the ground, and in great danger, because the earth above his head is in sundry places crossed over with timber, to keep the same from falling."§

At the close of the seventeenth century, as stated by the editor of Risdon, the tin mines of Devon appear to have been productive. Webster, who wrote a treatise on metals, in the year 1670, gives particulars of some situate on the hills above Plympton, which he had from one Thomas Creber of that place, "who was one," as he says, "that had wrought the tin mines, and all his ancestors before him."

A century after, Chapple, in his Review of Risdon, in alluding to the above account, writes as if mining in Devon had hardly any existence. This however must have arisen from want of information on his part, since although mining has languished at various intervals, it has never entirely ceased in our district; or his observations might refer to stream-works for tin, which have been long declining and are not now found in Devon. "The last stream-work," says De la Beche, "of which we can obtain information, seems to have been that carried on near Plympton St. Mary's, about the year 1808."||

Considerable improvements must have taken place in mining

* It has been justly remarked, by this writer, that Crowndale, near Tavistock, so unlike the names of places in that neighbourhood, points its origin to these German miners, as it is very like the names of mines in Germany.

† Introduction to Risdon's *Survey*, edit. 1811.

‡ Why should not this expressive word be revived for "excavators," instead of the barbarous solecism of "navigators," certainly, a *non navigando*!

§ Risdon's *Survey*, p. 12.

|| De la Beche's *Report*, p. 647.

affairs, between the time to which Chapple refers, and the beginning of the present century. The Introduction to the modern edition of Risdon's Survey states the metallic produce of Devon (for a period of ten years, from 1801 to 1810, inclusive,) to be as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Copper	326,612	3	6½
Tin	30,000	0	0
Lead	12,874	1	6

The bulk of this produce was from the immediate vicinity of Dartmoor,—from the two parishes of Mary Tavy and Tavistock; the mines in Mary Tavy having made returns equal to £204,070 19s. 11½d., and those of the parish of Tavistock being equal to £129,290 12s. 0½d.* From this comparative statement, it will be evident that the copper mines had become by far the most productive at the period in question; but although, from the Report above quoted, it would appear that copper was raised in Devon early in the last century, it was not until the commencement of the present, that the copper mines in this county became important. These, with the tin and lead mines, continue to be worked to the present time; but from the same authority we learn that little lead is now produced, in the western mining districts, only about 140 tons having been raised in 1835, from the Devon and Cornish mines together.

The following historical notices are collected from De la Beche's Report, as an authority on which the fullest reliance may be placed. "After being smelted, the tin has for more than six centuries paid a tax to the earls and dukes of Cornwall. Having been cast into blocks, it was taken to the respective towns already enumerated,—examined by the duchy officers,—stamped, when found to be of proper quality, with the duchy seal,—and the dues being paid, the blocks were then permitted to be sold. In the sixteenth century the *coinages*, as they are called, took place only twice a year, about Midsummer and Michaelmas, but afterwards, became quarterly. According to the the charter of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, the tin paid a duty of a halfpenny for every pound weight, when *coined*. In the reign of Edward I., the duty was fixed at four shillings for every hundred weight of coined tin, at which amount it has since continued. The duchy dues upon the tin coined in Devon, have been long less than those imposed upon that of Cornwall, having been only at the rate of 1s. 6½d. per cwt. By an act of William IV., (16th August, 1836,) the duties payable on the coinage of tin in Devon and Cornwall were abolished, and a compensation in lieu of them granted to the duchy, and fixed at 15s. per cwt. for tin, and at 10s. for tin ore.

"In 1213, the duty on tin, payable to the Earl of Cornwall, was farmed for 200 marks for Cornwall, and £200 for Devon, by which it is evident that the mines of the latter county were then the more

* Introduction to Risdon's Survey, p. 22.

valuable. In 1337, the year in which the Black Prince was created Duke of Cornwall, the profits of the coinage of Devon were £273 19s. 5½d. In 1471, the quantity of tin raised was 242,624*lbs.*, the profits of the duchy in our county being £190 17s. 11½d., at the rate of 1s. 6¾d. per cwt. In 1479 the amount of the coinage dues was £166 9s. 5½d. In 1524, 424 tanners of Devon paid, in addition to the coinage, 8d. per annum for *white rent* to the duchy. In 1602, (44, Eliz.,) the tin coinage amounted to £102 17s. 9¾d. The annual amount of tin raised in both counties, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I., is given from 1400 to 1600 tons, but the proportion for Devon, is not specified. In the time of Charles II., the tin revenues were much reduced, probably owing to the disturbances of the great rebellion. Accordingly, in more tranquil times, under Queen Anne and George I., they had again risen to about 1600 tons in the whole duchy. About 1742, the average produce for several years is reported at about 2100 tons. At the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century, the tin revenues of the duchy are stated at about £9620 per annum; in 1814, about £8500, and in 1820, about £11,125. From that year, to the abolition of the coinage in 1838, the average has been commonly estimated at between £11,000 and £12,000 for the whole duchy."

Any attempt to enter more in detail into the present state of mining operations, and the metallic products of the Forest and its precincts, is rendered unnecessary by the comprehensive view of the Geology of Dartmoor (see *Appendix*, No. I.) which Dr. E. Moore has kindly contributed, in addition to his valuable papers on the Botany and Zoology of the moorland district, and for which the best acknowledgments of the author, are gladly and gratefully tendered.

COPY OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING JOHN,

A.D. 1201.

JOHANNES, Dei gratia, Rex Angliæ, &c. Sciatis nos concessisse quod omnes stammatores nostri in Cornubia et Devoniam sint liberi et quieti de placitis natorum, dum operantur ad commodum firmæ nostræ vel commodum marcarum novi redditus nostri qui stammariæ sunt nostra dominica. Et quod possint omni tempore libere et quiete absque alicujus hominis vexatione fodere stammum et turbas ad stammum fundendum ubique in moris et feodis Episcoporum et Abbatum comitatuum sicut solebant et consueverunt et emere buscam ad funturam stammi sine vasto in regardis forestarum et divertere aquas ad operationem eorum in stammariis sicut de antiqua consuetudine consueverunt. Et quod non recedant ab operationibus suis pro alicujus summonitione nisi per summonitionem capitalis custodis stammariarum vel baillirorum ejus. Concessimus etiam quod capitalis custos stamma-

riarum et bailivi ejus per eum habent super prædictos stammatores plenariam potestatem ad eos justificandos et ad rectum producendos et quod ab eis in carceribus nostris recipiantur si contigerit quod aliquis prædictorum stammatorum debeat capi vel incarcerari pro aliquo recto. Et si contigerit quod aliquis eorum fuerit fugitivus vel udlugatus quod catalla eorum nobis reddantur per manum custodia stammariarum nostrarum, quia stammatores firmarii nostri sunt et semper in debito nostro. Præterea concessimus thesaurariis et ponderatoribus nostris ut sint fide-
liores et intentiores ad utilitatem nostram in receptione et custodia thesauri nostri per villas marcandas quod sint quieti in villis ubi manent de auxiliis et taillagiis dum fuerint in servitio nostra thesaurarii et ponderatores nostri quia nihil habent aliud vel habere possunt per annum pro prædicto servitio nostro. Testibus Wilielmo Comite Sarresburiae, Petro de Stokes, Warino filio Geroldi. Data per manum S. Wellensis Archidiaconi apud Bonam Villam Super Tokam vicesimo nono die Octobris anno regni nostri tertio.

APPENDIX,

No. VII.

DARTMOOR PRISON OF WAR.

By THE AUTHOR.

Few circumstances having had greater influence upon the present condition of the moor than the formation, about forty years since, of an extensive depot for prisoners of war, in the centre of the Western Quarter, a sketch of that important national establishment, unique in its character, and remarkable for its situation, may be fitly appended in this place.

When the first decisive check had been given by the illustrious Nelson, at Trafalgar, to the whirlwind career and gigantic designs of Napoleon,—when, under the righteous retribution of the Almighty, France was to experience, in her turn, the reverses of defeat, and the miseries of war, which she had so long inflicted upon other countries,—when the tide of victory gradually rolled back, and England numbered the captives of her prowess by thousands,—it became necessary to provide ampler accommodation for the unfortunate exiles, than could be afforded in the crowded and unhealthy buildings or prison-ships, appropriated for that purpose at Plymouth. The late Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, who held the office of Lord Warden of the Stannaries, under the Prince of Wales, (George IV.,) and who had already distinguished himself as one of the earliest and most successful cultivators of Dartmoor, by his improvements at Tor Royal, suggested the erection of the necessary buildings, at a spot about a mile from the scene of his own agricultural enterprise. Surveys were accordingly made by order of government, and the result of the investigation entered into was so favourable, that the spot recommended was decided upon, as the site of a war-prison establishment, on a scale suited to the exigencies of the case, and worthy of the humanity and renown of Great Britain.

The ground required for the site was liberally granted by the Prince, as Duke of Cornwall, and Lord of the Forest of Dartmoor. The foundation-stone was laid by the Lord Warden, on the 20th of March, 1806, and the buildings were speedily raised after the design,

and under the superintendence of, Mr. D. Alexander, architect. The following details are selected from the compendious account given by the late Mr. Burt, in his notes to Carrington's Dartmoor, and from a statement published about the time of the erection of the prison, in the new edition of Risdon's Survey of Devon, personal observation, and other sources.

"Granite taken from the moor," says Mr. Burt, "is the principal material; and the whole, including some later additions, cost about £127,000. Two of the prisons, a row of houses for subordinate officers, the walls of the chapel, and the parsonage-house, were erected by the French, and the interior of the chapel fitted up by American prisoners, who received a daily gratuity for their trouble; government, with a sympathy for these unhappy victims of ruthless war, which deserves the highest praise, kindly permitting them by this, and other modes of employment, both in and out of the walls, to alleviate the tedium of their captivity, and increase their private comforts."*

The author of the Additions to Risdon, published in 1811, gives the following compendious description of Dartmoor Prison, which had then been lately completed. It is probably the finest thing of its kind. "An outer-wall encloses a circle of about thirty acres; within this is another wall, which encloses the area in which the prisons stand. This area is a smaller circle with the segment cut off. The prisons are five rectangular buildings, each capable of containing more than fifteen hundred men;† they have each two floors, where is arranged a double tier of hammocks, slung on cast-iron pillars; and a third floor in the roof, which is used as a promenade in wet weather. There are, besides, two other spacious buildings; one, which is a large hospital, and the other is appropriated to the petty officers, who are judiciously separated from the men. In the area, likewise, are sheds, or open buildings, for recreation in bad weather. The space between the walls forms a fine military road‡ round the whole, where the guard parades, and the centinels being posted on platforms overlooking the inner-wall, have a complete command of the prison without intermixing with the prisoners. The segment, cut off from the inner circle, contains the governor's house, and the other buildings necessary for the civil establishment; and into this part of the ground the country people are admitted, who resort to a daily market with vegetables, and such other things, as the prisoners purchase, to add to the fare that is provided for them, and which they buy at lower rates, than they can generally be procured for, at the market towns. The barracks for the troops form a detached building, and are distant from the prison, above a quarter of a mile. The number of prisoners that have been lodged here, has been from five to seven thousand,§ and

* CARRINGTON'S *Dartmoor*, p. 140.

† Considerably more. See note below.

‡ Nearly a mile in length.

§ Subsequently as many as 9,600 were congregated within the walls at one time.

the troops employed to guard them not more than from three to five hundred."*

The great gateway on the western side is arched over with immense blocks of granite, bearing the appropriate inscription, in Roman capitals,

PARCERE SUBJECTIS.

Immediately opposite is the ample reservoir, from whence the whole establishment was served with copious supplies of purest water. Indeed the abundance and purity of this most essential article of daily life, was one of the causes which influenced the decision of government in selecting the spot, which was incontrovertibly proved to be remarkably healthy, notwithstanding the acknowledged severity of the climate. I am enabled to make this statement on high professional authority, that of Sir George Magrath, of Plymouth, M.D., the talented and skilful physician who presided over the medical department from 1814 until the close of the war.† From official returns, it appeared that the mortality among the prisoners was less in proportion, than in any town in England with an equal population.

A substantial chapel with a steeple, which forms a conspicuous object amidst the surrounding waste, was built for the accommodation of the officers of the depot, the troops, and the inhabitants of the busy little town, which had rapidly sprung up in the immediate neighbourhood of the prison establishment, under the name of Prince Town, in honour of the royal lord of the soil. "Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt," remarks Mr. Burt, "with his wonted regard for the welfare of Dartmoor, procured the privileges of holding a market and a fair. The chapel and parsonage-house lie a little way apart from the front of the prison. The former is sixty feet long by forty wide, and was first opened, in 1815, for divine service, which is continued; the parish church of Lydford being twelve or thirteen miles distant, though burials and christenings must still be performed there. It is capable of accommodating five hundred persons."

But the bustle and activity of this busy mart, in the midst of the desert, were brought to an early, and, in the opinion of many, to an unexpected close. War had continued so long, that many feared, and some hoped, that it would still be prolonged, even after the duration of a quarter of a century. But the period had arrived when the nations of the world were to be taught the instructive lesson, that the mightiest conqueror is but an instrument in the hand of the King of kings. And thus the subjugator of a continent, for whose ambitious schemes Europe was too narrow, was hurled from that portentous throne, which he had reared on the ruins of vanquished nations and

* RISON'S *Survey, Additions*, 1811, p. 410.

† I am indebted to this gentleman for some valuable observations on this important subject, which will be found at the close of this Appendix.

cemented with torrents of blood, and cast aside, when his work was done, like "a despised broken idol." When England, in the strength of a righteous cause, had chained the disturber of Europe, peace, at length, once more returned to bless the harassed and exhausted nations. The French, and subsequently the American prisoners, were restored to their native lands; the troops, stationed at the prison to guard them, were removed, and the vast establishment gradually broken up. As an unavoidable consequence, Prince Town soon presented the forlorn spectacle of grass-grown highways and ruinous habitations; shops and houses were shut up; the once busy mill, on Blackabrook, was still and silent, the moorland stream ran freely and uninterrupted in its antient channel; while the prison itself, in the desolate stillness of its spacious courts and apartments, afforded a striking contrast to the ceaseless hum of the multitudinous human swarm previously hived together within the walls. Carrington alludes to the change with his usual felicity.

Silent now,—

How silent, that proud pile, where England held
Within her victor gripe the vanquished foe;
O here, full many a blooming cheek was blench'd;
O here, full many a gallant heart was quell'd
By stern captivity; protracted, till
Hope almost ceas'd to bless the drooping brave.

Hope, though long deferred, came at last to incarcerated thousands, with joyful realization. More than thirty years have glided away, since liberty was here proclaimed to the captives, from the various countries, who had been compelled to drain their population to recruit the armies of Napoleon. Long may it be, ere Dartmoor Prison shall again be required for the sad purpose for which it was originally erected! Various projects have been, from time to time, suggested for the useful occupation of these spacious and commodious premises, such as a depot for convicts—a penitentiary—a school of industry and asylum for destitute children, rescued from the streets of the metropolis—a peat gas manufactory, &c., all which have been abandoned in succession. The scheme of locating convicts at Prince Town has lately been revived and the project for subjecting the peat, with which the immediate neighbourhood abounds, to chemical processes for the production of naphtha, and other substances, has been carried on for some time, with results which promise to remunerate the enterprising proprietors of the works, established at Prince Town. And however unpicturesque the array of peat-stacks, which meet the eye on every side, may appear, how gratifying the reflection that if some portion of the former activity of Prince Town has been revived, it is due to the arts of peace, and unconnected with those heart-rending miseries which war must always bring in its train.

The sentiments of the late Felicia Hemans, in her Prize Poem on Dartmoor, are so germane to the subject, and embodied in such

harmonious and pleasing strains, that they will form an appropriate appendage to our notice of the disused War Prison of England.

It is a glorious hour, when spring goes forth
O'er the bleak mountains of the shadowy north,
And with one radiant glance, one magic breath,
Wakes all things lovely from the sleep of death;
While the glad voices of a thousand streams
Bursting their bondage, triumph in her beams.
But peace hath nobler changes! O'er the mind
The warm and living spirit of mankind
Her influence breathes, and bids the blighted heart
To life and hope, from desolation, start!
She with a look dissolves the captive's chain,
Peopling with beauty, widow'd homes again,
Around the mother in her closing years
Gathering her sons once more, and from the tears
Of the dim past, but winning purer light
To make the present more serenely bright.

The testimony of a medical officer, of known reputation, as to the sanitary condition of a large national establishment, in this particular situation, is so important in an historical, scientific, and philanthropic point of view, that I gladly avail myself of his obliging permission to insert in this place, a communication, with which he has kindly favoured me.

ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF DARTMOOR.

By SIR GEORGE MAGRATH, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., M.R.I.A., &c.

FROM personal correspondence with other establishments, similar to Dartmoor, I presume the statistical records of that great tomb of the living, (embosomed as it is, in a desert and desolate waste, of wild, and in the winter time, terrible scenery, exhibiting the sublimity and grandeur occasionally of elemental strife, but never partaking of the beautiful of nature,* its climate too, cheerless and hyperborean,) with

* The *gentler* beauties of nature are certainly not to be sought for in the neighbourhood, and the effects of the wild scenery on the unhappy captives, has been feelingly and faithfully noted by the moorland muse.

O! who that drags
A captive's chain, would feel his soul refresh'd,
Though scenes like those of Eden should arise
Around his hated cage! But here green youth
Lost all its freshness, manhood all its prime,
And age sank to the tomb, ere peace her trump
Exulting blew; and still upon the eye
In dread monotony, at morn, noon, eve,
Arose the moor—the moor! CARRINGTON.

all its disadvantages, will show, that the health of its incarcerated tenants, in a general way, equalled, if not surpassed, any war prison in England or Scotland. This might be considered an anomaly in sanitary history, when we reflect how ungenially it might be supposed to act on southern constitutions, for it was not unusual in the months of December and January for the thermometer to stand at from thirty-three to thirty-five degrees below freezing, indicating cold, almost too intense to support animal life; but the density of the congregated numbers in the prison, created an artificial climate, which counteracted the torpifying effect of the Russian climate without. Like most climates of extreme heat or cold, the new comers required a seasoning, to assimilate their constitution to its peculiarities, in the progress of which, indispositions, incidental to low temperature, assailed them; and it was an every-day occurrence among the reprobate and incorrigible classes of the prisoners, who gambled away their clothing and rations, for individuals to be brought up to the receiving room, in a state of suspended animation, from which they were usually resuscitated, by the process resorted to in like circumstances in frigid regions. I believe one death only took place during my sojourn at Dartmoor, from torpor induced by cold, and the profligate part of the French were the only sufferers. As soon as the system became acclimated to the region in which they lived, health was seldom disturbed.

During my service there, malignant measles and small pox were imported from other contaminated sources. These diseases attained to great virulence among the Americans, chiefly arising from habits of indulgence, from the ample pecuniary resources they possessed, and the facilities of obtaining spirits, and sumptuous articles of diet, from the market people, which no vigilance on the part of the authorities could suppress or obviate. The latter disease degenerated into an exasperated species of peripneumonia, accompanied by low typhoid symptoms, which became very unmanageable and destructive. Independently of these contagious epidemics, (for they became so,) the depot may be said to have been surprisingly healthy.

I possess no register of the condition of health or disease obtaining in other war prisons, so as to enable me to draw an accurate parallel, but Dartmoor was generally considered equal, if not superior, to any depot where the same numbers of men were confined in so narrow a compass; but it must be borne in mind, that after the closing of Mill-Bay Prison, Dartmoor received men from the colonies, long shut up in transports, and often landed with the seeds of infection generated among them, and predisposed, by privations and a vitiated atmosphere, to disease, while none were sent to the prisons in the interior, but men selected on purpose, in perfect health. The capacity of accommodation at Dartmoor was on a very extensive scale, and far beyond any other prison; a greater number of men was consequently congregated there, than elsewhere, which proportionately diminished its means of health, as it was calculated to contain 9000. Nor should it be forgotten that a state of confinement invokes moral

and physical impressions deleterious to mental as well as bodily health.

The foregoing observations refer particularly to the period when the depot was under the medical superintendence of Sir George Magrath, viz., from his appointment to that important office, in 1814, to the close of the establishment, in 1816, during which time the diseases of the American prisoners, above specified, came under his professional notice and care. Were it compatible with the plan of this work, the subject might be further elucidated, by reference to a testimonial, presented to him by the prisoners, and transmitted to the President of the United States, demonstrative of their regard, and expressive of the high sense they entertained of his humane exertions and well-directed skill, in alleviating, as far as possible, the sufferings and maladies to which they were exposed in their place of durance. Circumstances more favourable for testing the comparative healthiness of the climate of Dartmoor (however inclement, in winter) can hardly be predicated; and if any of the numerous plans for locating large numbers of persons in the prison buildings,* should ever be realized, the results of experience, recorded by a competent observer, may become of great practical importance.

It may however be remarked that independently of the state of foreign prisoners, sufficient and most satisfactory proofs of the healthiness of the general climate of the moor, as well as of this particular spot, may be adduced without difficulty. Situated at about fourteen hundred feet above the level of the sea, and exposed to the bleakest winds, Prince Town must necessarily (as has been shown above) often experience great severity of weather; and accordingly there are very few days in the year when the cheerful peat fire on the hearth, so characteristic of the district, would not form a most agreeable adjunct to domestic comfort. But the free mountain air, an abundant supply of water of the purest quality, and every facility for the most perfect drainage, would more than counterbalance (for many purposes) the coldness of the situation. Epidemic diseases are by no means so common in the moorlands as in less elevated tracts, and the inhabitants generally, are remarkable for vigour of constitution, a green old age, and length of life; and many of the most eminent medical practitioners of Plymouth and other neighbouring towns have, in some particular cases, sent their patients for change

* One of those projects, alluded to in a former page, may deserve a more particular notice, as having received the patronage of royalty, and excited considerable attention at the time. It was proposed to collect a large number of orphan children from the streets of the metropolis and to place them at Prince Town under a system of religious, moral, and industrial training, which it was confidently hoped, would tend to reclaim them from habits of vice and immorality, and render them useful members of society. At a public meeting, held in London, in 1820, it was announced that his majesty George IV. had headed the subscription for the accomplishment of these objects, by a princely donation of £1000, and had further offered to grant part of the neighbouring moor for the same benevolent purpose. But unexpected difficulties intervened, and the resolutions of the meeting were never carried into effect.

of air to the moor, with great success. The tourist coming from the more genial clime of the lowlands into the bleak and cloudy regions "of the mountain and the flood," might be inclined to commiserate the hardy countryman whose life is spent amidst the snows and mists, the rocks and wastes of Dartmoor, but he, like other mountaineers, is little disposed to exchange the home of his youth, and the freedom of the moor, for more circumscribed, though sunnier, spots; and from habit and early association, is enabled to find subsistence and comfort, where a passing observer might imagine nothing but poverty, hardship, and wretchedness.

Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,
And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms ;
And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,
Clings close and closer to the mother's breast,
So the loud torrent, and the whirlwind's roar,
But bind him to his native mountains more.

GOLDSMITH.

APPENDIX OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.

The documents, which form the present appendix, have been supplied to me by the kindness of my friend, Mr. Pitman Jones, of Exeter, and have been submitted to a gentleman of established antiquarian reputation, well acquainted with the Duchy of Cornwall, who has obligingly selected and prefaced them with the following valuable and interesting observations.

No where are the vestiges of Norman rule more distinctly traceable than in the county and confines of Devonshire. Exeter attempted to maintain against the Conqueror the same independent character which she had asserted against the Saxon sovereign,^a and the sullen obedience of that antient metropolis and the surrounding territory required to be insured by at least ten castles, of a date not long subsequent to the Conquest. The rivers, which opened an access to the interior of the county, were guarded by the fortresses of Exeter, Totness, Plympton, Trematon, and Barnstaple; while the inland passes and vulnerable points were secured by the castles of Launceston, Okehampton, Tiverton, Berry, and Lidford. To the same, or a not much later period, we may perhaps assign castles of which few traces can now be found; namely, those of Bradninch, Torrington, Bampton, Winkleigh, and Gidleigh. The Domesday Survey is silent as to any of these castles, except Okehampton and Trematon; yet we know, from unexceptionable historical evidence, that one at least of the others was erected immediately after the capture of Exeter;^b and their surviving ruins carry intrinsic evidence of the early date of some of the rest.

Lidford is named in Domesday, yet it is clear that nothing but the *borough* is there noticed. The royal castle and manor, with the forest which has been immemorially appendant to them, are no where to be found in that record; nor is this at all surprising. Until the property was granted to a subject in a subsequent reign,

^a "Angliæ regi, nisi ad libitum suum, famulari sub rege Edwardo, aliisque prioribus, olim despexerat." ORDERICUS VIT. Lib. iv., Cap. 4.

^b "Locum intra mœnia Exoniæ ad extruendum castellum delegit" [Rex Willelmus.] ORD. VIT., Lib. iv., ib.

it was in the King's hands, and can have been liable to pay none of those taxes, which, under the names of hidage, carrucage, &c., were chiefly in view when the survey was made. A tract of land, like Dartmoor, was, under no circumstances, likely to find its way into the enumeration of lands in Domesday, for it is very evident that the land intended to be included in it, and to which alone the description of *hides* and *carrucates* can strictly apply, was land under tillage, or some other form of profitable management, yielding an annual revenue to its owner, and therefore the fit subject of a land-tax. For the same reason the silence of the survey as to tin mines, or their produce, both in Devon and Cornwall, cannot be relied upon as the slightest evidence that they had ceased to be worked. Public records of undoubted authority show that those mines were in full activity in the twelfth century.^c

^c *Pipe Roll*,
2 Hen. II., &c.

It is probable, from the first document in this Appendix, that the Forest was occasionally under grant to members of the royal family during the twelfth century, but the first distinct notice of any transfer of the castle, manor, and forest by the crown to a subject, is the grant by Henry III.^d to his brother Richard, the Earl of Cornwall, commonly called King of the Romans or of Germany. From that date, the property has been from time to time under grant from the crown; and, since A.D. 1337, has been permanently annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall.

^d *Rot. Cart.*,
23 Hen. III., m. 1.

It has been justly observed that the technical meaning of the term *Forest* does not necessarily imply that there should be more timber or herbage than may be sufficient to supply food and shelter for the wild animals that range over it. It is indeed possible that there formerly existed more wood on Dartmoor than is now to be found, and that the tanners, who certainly were allowed to supply themselves with fuel for the fusion of the ore, have laid waste the surface; but it is more probable that the granitic table-land of the Forest was never covered with anything entitled to the name of timber, and that it was reserved as a mere hunting ground. Nor is it to be assumed that diversion was the main object of these appropriations of land. It is very certain that our ancestors (excluding, of course, those who were obliged to be satisfied with humbler fare,) relied upon their deer-parks, chases, and warrens for the supply of their larders; and that cured venison was an important article of food in royal households.^e

^e It was packed and salted, and sent from distant parts of the country to the king's larder. *Prefatory Observations on Wardrobe Accounts*, 28 Ed. I., ed. 1787.

Yet we know that the princely owners of Dartmoor have always provided for the contingency of their personal presence in the field. Lymstone manor was held by the tenure of furnishing two arrows, and an oaten loaf, to the Lord of Lidford, when he came to hunt on Dartmoor. The Lord of Kingdon, Shiredon, and Hockneton, was bound to present three arrows on the like occasion, and the Lord of Druscombe held his land by the sergeanty of bearing a bow and three arrows to the King's use when he hunted on Dartmoor. These tenures are set forth in the Hundred Rolls, and the record of the Knights' Fees in the Exchequer;^f from which we also learn that if the Lord of Dartmoor should pursue the chase over the neighbouring waste of Exmoor, there are lands at Braunton that are bound to drag the Taw or the Torridge to supply the table of the Prince with one of the best salmon that can be found there. Nor is this all: if the Prince should avail himself of the hunting season at Dartmoor to visit his antient castle of Launceston, the lord of the manor of Carbillia will infallibly subject his land to the peril of forfeiture, unless he stations himself at Poulston bridge, ready to receive His royal highness and to present to him "unam capam griseam," or "de grisauco,"^g—a service the more perilous, inasmuch as he will have to consult the Society of Antiquaries, from whom he will probably only learn that the "capa grisea" may mean either a grey mantle or a fur cape, and that the word "grisauco" is not to be found in the glossaries at all.^h

Let us now turn to the documents in the following Appendix, and shortly notice their contents.

The conversion of large tracts of land into royal forest was the subject of frequent complaint against the early Norman princes, and some relief appears to have been promised in the charters of Henry I., A.D. 1101, and of Stephen A.D. 1136.

The Great Charter of John, promulgated A.D. 1215, contained a promise to disafforest all forests of recent erection, and in that year writs were accordingly issued to the officers of the forest with a view to ascertain and redress the grievances alluded to in this Charter.ⁱ There was however no forest charter, distinct from the Great Charter of liberties, until the following reign.

In the second year of Henry III., A.D. 1217, we have the first authentic evidence of the promulgation of

^f 1 Hundred.
Rot., 3 Ed. I., pp.
66, 81, 85, 86.
Testa de Nevil, p.
197.

^g BLOUNT'S
Tenures, p. 63,
ed. 1784, and LY-
SONS'S *Cornwall*,
p. 246.

^h The manor is
believed to be now
the property of a
lady, who was re-
lieved from this
embarrassing du-
ty on the occa-
sion of the re-
cent royal visit to
her county; for the
Duke of Cornwall
can only win the
grisauco cloak
by crossing the Ta-
mar at Poulston.

ⁱ *Rot. Pat.*
17 John.

a distinct charter on the subject of the royal forests. The writ is still extant which directs the sheriffs of the different counties of England to summon the knights, who were to choose twelve others to perambulate between the old and new forest lands;^k and the charter itself which had escaped the search of Sir W. Blackstone, was found in Durham cathedral in 1806.^l

^k *Rot. Pat.*,
2 Hen. III.

^l It is prefixed
to the new edition
of the statutes.

In the ninth year of the same king another charter of the Forest, not materially varying from the last, was published, a copy of which is usually prefixed to the common editions of the statutes at large. One of the most important provisions of this charter was to disafforest lands which had been converted into forests by Henry II., Richard I., and John.

This charter was followed by general perambulations, made in all the forest counties, under royal commissions or writs,^m which were repeated in this and the following reigns.

^m See BLACK-
STONE'S *Introduc-
tion to the Great
Charter*, pp. 78,
107, (8vo. edit.)

The first document in the Appendix is a charter of John Earl of Morton (i.e. Mortain, in Normandy) who was Earl of Cornwall during the life of his brother Richard I. and afterwards became king. It professes to grant certain immunities to free tenants, out of the *Regard* of the forest, which were in fact little more than mere declarations of their common law rights.

The second document contains a copy of a charter by the same person when king. It disafforests all lands in Devonshire except the antient Regards of the forests of Dartmoor and Exmoor, and bears date the 18th May, *anno regni* 5, (A.D. 1203 or 1204,) eleven or twelve years before the date of Magna Charta.ⁿ

ⁿ There were
two eighteenth of
May in 17 John.

The third document is an instruction or mandate to the bailiffs of Lidford, probably the governing officers of the borough, to permit the king's tanners, (as indeed at this time all the tanners in Devon and Cornwall were called,) to take coal, that is, peat, from Dartmoor for the use of the stannary; no doubt for the fusion of the ore.

Document No. iv. is a grant by Henry III. to the chaplain of Lidford of the tithe of the herbage of Dartmoor. Tithe is not due of common right from royal forests; hence the necessity of this special concession by which the tithe of agistment was assigned to the church of Lidford.

No. v. is a writ (A.D. 1240) from King Henry III. directing the sheriff of Devon to summon a jury of twelve Knights to determine by perambulation the boundary of the Forest of Dartmoor. The official

return to this writ has not been found, but there are several copies extant of various dates, none of which exactly agree.

A copy of one of these forms the sixth of the following documents.

It will be observed that where the word *linealiter* is used in the perambulation the boundary is not necessarily represented by a *straight* line, although that construction may possibly be put upon the word. Nor should it be overlooked that, according to the forest law, the object which forms the boundary, if it be a road, river, &c., is wholly included within the franchise of the forest.^o

^o See 4, *Coke Inst.*, p. 318.

Document No. vii. is an interesting ecclesiastical instrument by which the Bishop of Exeter, A.D. 1260, transferred the villages of Balbeny and Pushyll to the parish of Widdecombe from Lidford for the convenience of the inhabitants of them. The transfer is only partial. For some purposes they were to remain parcel of the mother parish of Lidford. The arrangement is believed to be still in force.

The extract, No. viii. sufficiently explains itself. The original is in Latin, and is much more voluminous. It is an account rendered in 1297 to the Earl of Cornwall, to whose father the castle, manor, borough and forest had been granted; and the items are arranged under the heads of Lidford, (i.e. the borough) and its fee-farm rent; the Manor, including the profits arising from the mill, fairs, toll-tin, stray cattle, &c.; and the Forest, the profits of which arose at that time from a water-mill,—from mortgable, (probably acknowledgments paid for the use of dead wood, found on the moor)—the fines of villis, now called the Venville rents,—pasturage and folding of cattle,—payments made by peat diggers,—agistment of the cattle of outlying tenants,—rents paid by the censers, and the pannage, or feed of pigs. Some of these sources of revenue would seem to indicate the existence of more timber than is now to be seen within the present supposed limits of the forest. The Lidford and Dartmoor courts were probably held, as now, together; and the long list of fines on various law proceedings shows an amount of litigation to which the pacific inhabitants of the moor have happily long been strangers; though the recent establishment of itinerant county judges may perhaps revive the taste for it. The reader may recognise among the names of litigants or offenders some that are still familiar in the neighbourhood.

It will be observed that neither this nor any other Dartmoor Account notices the profit accruing to the Earl or the Duchy from the stannaries. The dues paid by tanners working in the demesne land, whether manor or forest, and called toll-tin, are mentioned; but the far larger revenue, arising from coinage and pre-emption of tin, is not included. There can be no reasonable doubt that the Stannaries of Devon were more productive than those of Cornwall in the twelfth century; for the fixed sum paid to the bishops of Exeter, for the last seven centuries and a half, as the title of the Royalty, or farm of tin, is greater for Devon than for Cornwall. In Devon, too, as in Cornwall, four courts have immemorably settled all ordinary suits and quarrels in which tanners are parties; and the records of their proceedings, still extant in great abundance from the reign of Edward III., bear witness to an enormous amount of petty litigation, which, for some centuries, yielded to the Crown, the Prince, or their officers, an income by no means contemptible. The scene of these mining operations was the moor and its confines; for although the warden and stewards of the stannaries claimed all Devon as stannary-ground, and Exeter itself could not secure the defendant from an involuntary visit to Lidford Castle under the escort of a tin bailiff, it is as certain as any geological fact can be, that Dartmoor alone has hitherto been the centre and source of all the tin stream-works in the county. The authentic annals of the tin revenues must be sought for, not in the Dartmoor rentals, but in the coinage rolls; a series quite distinct from the rentals or bailiff's accounts of Lidford or Dartmoor Forest.

The charter No. ix. contains a grant by the king, in 1466, to the tanners of Cornwall, of the liberty of taking peat on Dartmoor for melting their tin. The recital shows that at this date the timber or fuel in Cornwall had been so much destroyed, that there no longer existed in that county sufficient materials for supplying the furnaces of the blowing houses.

Article No. x. is a copious analysis of an account rendered by the reeves and foresters of Lidford and Dartmoor in the reign of Henry VII. In this document all the heads in the former account, already referred to, are repeated with greater detail and more instructive particularity. The old division of the forest into four quarters, or bailiwicks, is here distinctly apparent.

This article is followed by some extracts, No. xi.

from court rolls, relating to the forest. They appear to be selected from the rolls of the leet or law court of the forest, &c., and chiefly concern offences committed by encroaching on the forest or venville commons, neglecting to repair fences, and other delinquencies.

No. xii. is a presentment or finding by a jury summoned in 1609 to inquire respecting the boundaries of the forest, and other matters relating to Dartmoor. The open commons in the parishes and places adjoining the forest are here called "the Commons of Devonshire." It is believed that they are not now familiarly known by that name, though it was certainly long in use, both before and since this presentment.

No. xiii. is a survey, or part of a survey, of the castle and borough of Lidford, (but not of the manor or forest), made by direction of the Commonwealth Parliament under the act or ordinance passed for the sale of lands belonging to the royal family. It is apparent that the castle was at this time in a state little less ruinous than its present condition. In the reign of Edward III. the Commons complained that tinnerns confined there for debt were so well entertained, that they never troubled themselves to pay their creditors.^p Latterly, the castle lost its character as a place of pleasant retirement for insolvent debtors, and was pronounced one of "the most haniours, contagious, and detestable places in the kingdom."^q

p 2 Parl. rolls,
344.

q LYSONS'S DE-
VON, under
"Plympton."

No. xiv., a terrier of Lidford parish follows.

No. xv. The last document in the series is one of considerable interest, which has never hitherto been published. The earliest printed statutes of the Stannary Parliaments are of the reign of Henry VIII., and were amongst the first productions of the press of this country, having been printed at Tavistock, within the precincts of the abbey, in the year 1510. The statutes, or ordinances in the appendix were passed at a Crockern Tor convocation, or parliament of tinnerns, in the year 1494, assembled by authority of Prince Arthur, then Duke of Cornwall, held in the presence of his officers and subsequently ratified by him. Each of the stannary towns, Chagford, Ashburton, Tavistock and Plympton, sent twenty-four tinnerns to represent the general body of Devonshire stannators and to consult for the common interest and welfare of the stannaries of that county.

The chief provisions of the statutes are made for the purpose of regulating the enjoyment of tin-works, that is of tin-bounds, as they are now called, and the

blowing or smelting of tin ore. On the first head, the most remarkable enactment is one which forbids any one to become the owner of tin-works who possesses landed property worth more than £10 per annum, excepting those who claim them in their own freehold.

To what extent such a by-law, affecting all ranks of the king's subjects and not merely the tanners by whom, or whose representatives, the law was made, may well be doubted, and it is questionable whether it has ever been enforced. But it very clearly indicates the class of persons who were at this time considered to be alone entitled to the antient franchises claimed by the tanners, viz., working or labouring tanners, who pitched their tin-bounds for the purpose of effectually extracting the ore and supplying the blowing-houses.

The provisions for entering a description of the bounds at the Stannary Courts, and for using certain marks to distinguish the quality and ownership of the smelted tin, are reasonable and have long been in operation in Cornwall.

The exclusion of professional legal advisers from practising in any Stannary Court is also peculiar to this Parliament, and entitles it to the name of the *Parliamentum indoctum*, assigned to a Parliament once held in this country. It is also a law which has probably never been enforced.

No. I.

Carta Johannis Comitis Moreton de Foresta Devonie.

Johannes Comes Moreton omnibus hominibus et amicis suis Francie et Anglie presentibus et futuris Salutem. Sciatis me concessisse redidisse et hac carta mea confirmasse comitibus baronibus militibus et omnibus libere tenentibus clericis et laicis in Devenesir' libertates suas foreste quas habuerunt tempore Henrici Regis proavi mei. Tenendas et habendas illis et heredibus suis de me et heredibus meis. Et nominatim quod habeant arcus et pharetras et sagittas in terris suis deferendas extra reguardum foreste mee et quod canes sui vel hominum suorum non sint espaltati extra reguardum foreste et quod habeant canes suos et alias libertates sicut melius et liberius illas habuerunt tempore ejusdem Henrici Regis et reisellos suos et quod capiant capreolam vulpem cattum lupum leporem lutrum ubicunque illa invenerint extra reguardum foreste mee. Et ideo vobis firmiter precipio quod nullus eis de hiis vel aliis libertatibus suis molestiam inferat vel gravamen. Hiis testibus. Willelmo Marescall. Willelmo Comite Sarisbir'. Willelmo Comite de Vern'. Stephano Ridell Cancellario meo. Willelmo de Wenn'. Hamon de Valoin'. Rogero de Novoburgo. Ingelr' de Pratell. Roberto de Mortem. Waltero Maltravers'. Radulpho Morin. Waltero de Cautelo. Fulcon' fratre suo Gileberto Morin' et multis aliis.

Copied from the original Charter, under the seal of the Earl, in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter.

Before 27 May, 1199, on which day he was crowned.

No. II.

Carta Regis Johannis de Comitatu Devonie deafforestando.

Johannes Dei gratia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie Dux Normannie et Aquitanie Comes Andegavie archiepiscopis episcopis abbatibus comitibus baronibus justiciariis forestariis vicecomitibus prepositis ministris et omnibus baillivis et fidelibus suis salutem. Sciatis nos deafforestasse totam Devoniam de omnibus que ad forestam et ad forestarios pertinent usque ad metas antiquorum regardorum de Dertemora et Exemora que riguarda fuerunt tempore regis Henrici primi: ita quod tota Devoniam et homines in ea manentes et heredes eorum sint deafforestati omnino et quieti et soluti de nobis et heredibus nostris imperpetuum de omnibus que ad forestam et ad forestarios pertinent exceptis duabus moris prenominatis scilicet Dertemora et Exemora per predictas metas. Volumus etiam et concedimus quod predicti homines de Devoniam et heredes eorum habeant

consuetudines intra regarda morarum illarum sicut habere consueverant tempore predicti regis Henrici faciendo inde consuetudines quas inde facere tunc consueverant et debuerant. Et quod liceat eis qui voluerint extra predictas metas essartare, parcos facere, omnimodam venationem capere, canes arcus et sagittas et alia omnimoda arma habere, et saltatoria facere, nisi in divisis predictarum morarum ubi non poterunt saltatoria vel haia facere. Et si canes eorum excurrerint in forestam nostram volumus quod ipsi inde deducantur sicut et alii barones et milites inde deducuntur qui sunt deafforestati et qui marchiant alibi foreste nostre. Et volumus quod unus turnus vicecomitis tantum fiat per annum in comitatu Devonie et ille turnus fiat post festum Sancti Michaelis ad inquirendum placita corone et alia que ad coronam pertinent sine occasionibus alicui faciendis, et quod plures turnos non faciat nisi pro placitis corone cum evenerint attachiandis cum coronatoribus et propter pacem assecurandam; ita quidem quod in itinere illo nichil capiat ad opus suum. De prisonibus vero [qui capti] fuerint in comitatu Devonie de quibus vicecomes habeat potestatem eos replegiandi et quorum plegiagium comes Devonie voluerit super se capere. Volu[mus et concedimus quod] per consilium eorum replegiuntur; ita quod per odium vel occasionem vicecomitis ulterius in prisa non detineantur. Et si vicecomes injuste gravaverit predictos homines Devonie et inde conv[ictus] fuerit incidet in misericordiam nostram et nos de eo misericordiam capiemus et alium vicecomitem eis substituemus qui eos bene et legaliter tractabit. Teste Domino Hereberto Sarum Episcopo. Galfrido filio Petri Comite Essex. Baldewino Comite Albemarle. Willelmo Comite de Fferariis. Henrico Comite Hereford. Willelmo de Braos' Hugone de Nevill. Willelmo Briwer. Simone de Pateshull. Data per manum Domini Simonis Cicestriensis electi apud Wynton decimo octavo Die Maii anno regni nostri quinto. (18 May, 5 John, 1204.)

Rotuli Chartarum in turri Londinensi, p. 132. The parts between brackets are effaced in the original.

No. III.

Writ by the King directing the Bailiffs of Lidford to permit the tinnars of Devon to take fuel on the moor.

Rex baillivis de Ledeford salutem. Precipimus vobis quod permittatis stagnarios nostros Devonie capere et habere carbonem in mora nostra de Dertemore ad stagnariam nostram sicut habere consueverint tempore domini Johannis patris nostri et nostro, nec eis inde faciatis vel fieri permittatis molestiam vel impedimentum. Teste apud Turrin London. 18 die Julii. (6 Hen. III., 1222.)

1 Rot. Claus., p. 505, (printed edit.)

No. IV.

*Pro decima herbagii Dertemore ecclesiæ Sancti Petrochi de
Ludeford concessa.*

Rex dedit et concessit Deo et ecclesie Sancti Petrochi de Ludeford et capellano ministrando in eadem ecclesia ad sustentationem suam quicumque pro tempore ibidem capellanus fuerit decimam herbagii more de Dertemor. In cujus Rei &c. Teste ut supra. Teste Rege apud Wudestok. 12 die Julii.

Et mandatum est Herberto filio Mathei quod persone ejusdem ecclesie decimas predictas haberi faciat. Teste ut supra.

Rot. Patent, 21 Hen. III., mem. 6, (1236.)

No. V.

*De perambulatione facienda inter Forestam de Dertemore
et alias terras.*

Rex vicecomiti Devonie Salutem. Sciatis quod dilectus frater noster Ricardus Comes Pictavie et Cornubie pro parte sua et Henricus de Mereton, Hamelinus de Eudon, Robertus de Halyun, et Willelmus le Pruz, pro parte militum et libere tenencium habencium terras et feoda juxta forestam ejusdem comitatus de Dertemore posuerunt se coram nobis in perambulationem inter terras eorum et predictam forestam ejusdem comitatus faciendam et ideo tibi precipimus quod si alii de comitatu tuo habentes terras cognoverint coram te et coram custodibus placitorum corone nostre quod predicti quatuor milites de consensu aliorum omnium posuerint se in perambulationem illam pro omnibus aliis tunc assumptis tecum duodecim legalibus militibus de comitatu tuo in propria persona tua accedas ad forestam et terras predictas et per eorum sacramenta fieri facias perambulationem inter predictam forestam et terras predictas; ita quod perambulatio illa fiat per certas metas et divisas. Et scire nobis facias ubicunque fuerimus distincte et aperte sub sigillo tuo et per quatuor milites ex illis qui perambulationi illi interfuerint per quas metas et divisas perambulatio facta fuerit et habeas ibi nomina militum et hoc breve. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium decimo tertio die Junii.

Rot. Claus., 13 June, 24 Hen. III., (1240.)

No. VI.

Perambulation of the Boundaries of Dartmoor Forest, made under the above commission, 24 Henry III., A.D. 1240.

Hec est Perambulatio facta et ordinata per commune consilium Ricardi Comitis Cornubie et Pictavie et militum et libere tenentium in comitatu Devon per preceptum domini Regis Henrici filii Johannis anno coronationis dicti Henrici vicesimo quarto in vigilia sancti Jacobi apostoli per sacramentum militum subscriptorum, scilicet, Willielmi de la Brewer, Guidonis de Breteville, Willielmi de Wydeworthy, Hugonis de Bollay, Ricardi Gyffard', Odonis de Treverbyn, Henrici filii Henrici, Willielmi Trenchard, Philippi Parrer ^a Nicholai de Heamton ^b Willielmi de Moreleghe, et Duranti filii Botour, qui incipiunt perambulationem ad hogam de Cossdonne et inde linealiter usque ad parvam hogam que vocatur parva Hundetorre, et inde linealiter usque ad Thurlestone, et inde linealiter usque ad Wotesbrokelakesfote que cadit in Tyng, et inde linealiter usque ad Heighestone, ^c et inde linealiter usque ad Langestone, ^d et inde linealiter usque per mediam turbariam de Alberysheved, ^e et sic in longum Wallebroke et inde linealiter usque ad Furnum regis et inde linealiter usque ad Wallebrokeshede et sic in longum Wallebroke usque cadit in Dertam, et sic per Dertam usque ad aliam Dertam, et sic per aliam Dartam ascendendo usque Okebrokysfote ^f et sic ascendendo Okebroke usque ad la Dryeworke, et ita ascendendo usque ad la Dryfeld ford, et sic inde linealiter usque ad Battysshull ^g et inde linealiter usque ad caput de Wester Wellabroke et sic per Wester Wellabroke usque cadit in Avenam, et inde linealiter usque ad Ester Whyteburghe et inde linealiter usque ad la Redelake ^h que cadit in Erme et inde linealiter usque ad Grymsgrove et inde linealiter usque ad Elysburghe et sic linealiter usque at crucem Sywardi et inde usque ad Ysfother et sic per aliam Ysforthor et inde per mediam Mystor ⁱ usque ad Mewyburghe et inde usque ad Lullingesfote ^k et inde usque ad Rakernesbrokysfote, et sic ad caput ejusdem aque et deinde usque ad la Westsolle et inde linealiter usque ad Ernestorre et inde linealiter usque at vadum proximum in orientali parte capelle Sancti Michaelis de Halgestoke et inde linealiter usque ad predictam hogam de Cossdonne in orientali parte.

VARIOUS READINGS.

- ^a Probably, Perer.
^b Probably, Highhampton.
^c Hengheston.
^d Yessetone.
^e Aberesheved.

- ^f Okbrokefote.
^g Cattyshyll, or Gnattishull
^h Rodelake.
ⁱ Mistmore.
^k Hullingssete.

No. VII.

*Extract from the Register of Bishop Walter Bronescombe.
13 Kalends of September [20 of August] 1260. Folio 16, b.*

Exivit littera universis &c. Episcopus &c. Fide dignorum assertionem intelligentes quod quidam parochiani ecclesie de Lideford villulas que dicuntur Balbenye et Pushyll inhabitantes adeo distant ab eorum ecclesia matrice predicta, quod cum pre nimia distantia nullo modo visitare possunt quociens eis fuerit opportunum, dilecto filio officiali archidiaconi Totton nostris litteris dedimus in mandatis, ut facta inquisitione solemniter in pleno capitulo ejusdem loci, nos literatorie reddet certiores, an homines predicti ad erectionem sufficerint oratorii; item que parochialis ecclesia villulis ipsis vicinior existat; necnon iidem homines sine prejudicio juris alieni audire divina et ecclesiastica percipere valeant sacramenta; et quanto eodem villule distant a matrice ecclesia predicta; et si tempestatibus et inundationibus aquarum exortis, parochianis ipsis matricem ecclesiam predictam visitare volentibus via longior debeat. Cumque per certificationem officialis memorati invenerimus, quod incolis ipsis ad constructionem oratorii minime sufficientibus, parochialis ecclesia de Wydecombe locis ipsis plus aliis omnibus est vicina, et quod loca predicta a matrice ecclesia de Lideford sereno tempore per octo, et tempestatibus exortis in circuitu per quindecim, distant miliaria; salutem animarum sicut non debemus negligere ulla ratione volentes, ecclesiarum ipsarum rectores ad nostram fecimus presentiam evocari: rectoribus igitur predictis coram nobis constitutis, et exposito eisdem hujuscemodi periculo, ac de expresso consensu utriusque ecclesie patronorum, ordinationi nostre se supponentibus, promittentibusque bona fide voluntati nostre parere in hac parte ac nostram ordinationem predictam observare in perpetuum, de consilio prudentium virorum nobis assistentium taliter ordinavimus, videlicet, quod predictorum et adjacentium locorum incolis sic in unitate sue parochialis ecclesie de Lideford perpetuo remanentibus, in ecclesia de Wydecombe imposterum divina audiant et omnia in vita et morte ecclesiastica percipiant sacramenta. In coopertura et fabrica ecclesie de Wydecombe, clausura cemeterii, subsidio luminarium et deferendo pane benedicto cum ipsis ecclesie parochialis contribuant: consuetudines ipsius ecclesie in visitationibus infirmorum, benedictionibus nubentium, in purgationibus post partum, in baptismatibus parvulorum, in mortuariis et sepulturis morientium observent: Offerant quoque ibidem solemniter ter in anno et decimam nihilominus agnorum eidem ecclesie cum integritate persolvant. In signum vero subjectionis et agnitionem juris parochialis, quilibet incola dictorum locorum terram tenens semel in anno, videlicet die sancti Petroci, in ecclesia de Lideford solemniter offerat et omnes decimas et obventiones majores et minores, hiis duntaxat exceptis que superius enunciantur, matri ecclesie sue de Lideford sine qualibet diminutione et contradictione persolvant. In cujus, &c.

No. VIII.

Extract from an account rendered by the ministers of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, 25 Edw. I., A.D. 1296-7.

LYDFORD.

Rents of Assize.—The same (accountant) renders account of 50s. 5½d. of assized rent this year.

Sum £2. 10s. 5½d.

Issues of the Manor.—The same renders account of 30s. for a water-mill let to farm; of 3s. 5½d. for toll of the fairs this year; of toll of tin^a on the waste of Lydeford *nil* that year; of 12s. 9d. from amercements of the borough this year; of 21s. from stray colts and bullocks this year; of 2s. 2d. from censarii for having liberty.^b

Sum £3. 9s. 4½d.

Fines.—The same renders account of 6s. 8d. from Richard Smith of Lydeford for iron carried away from the Earl's castle.

Sum 6s. 8d.

Sum total £6. 6s. 5¾d.

DERTEMORE.

Rents of Assize.—The same renders account of 75s. of assized rent per annum.

Sum £3. 15s. 0d.

Issues of the Forest.—The same renders account of 33s. 4d. from the farm of a water-mill there this year; of 14s. 6d. from mortgable^c; of £4. 1s. 8d. from the fines of villis^d for having pasture for their cattle; of 15s. 10d. from 96 folds this year, viz. from each fold 2d.; of 11s. 3d. from 27 colliers^e this year, viz. from each collier 5d.; of 15s. 6½d. from 2442 cattle agisted and tended by the shepherds of the Lord Earl there this year, viz. for each head of cattle 1½d.; of 33s. 3d. from 399 cattle at farm near Okehampton this year; of 8s. for the farm of the said cattle as demised by the bailiff this year; of £15. 17s. 7½d. from 2141 cattle returning to fold^f this year, viz. from each head of cattle 1½d.; of £4. 14s. from 487 horses feeding there this year, viz. for each horse 2d.; of 3s. from 36 folds of Lydeforde and Waterfalle near Lydeforde this year; of 8d. from the rent of censarii for having the advowson^g; of 2s. 3d. from pannage of pigs this year.

Sum £45. 3s. 1d.

^a In original "tollon' stagm," i.e. tolloneum or tollnetum stagminis.

^b "De cens' pro libertate habenda." Whether this was a census paid for enjoying certain immunities or privileges, or was a capitage paid in respect of exemption from personal servitude, is not clear;—a class of tenants was always called censers, or censarii, and are still named in some of the drift warrants.

^c "De mortuo gabulo," called mortgable or more-gable in later records, probably payments for dead wood.

^d "De finibus villarum."

^e "De carbonariis," explained in later accounts to mean diggers of turf or peat for fuel.

^f Averiis redeuntibus ad faldam.

^g It should seem that at this time the advowson of Lidford parish was on farm to certain tenants paying census or rent.

Perquisites [of Courts].—The same renders account of 2s. 6d. from Richard Rys and three others^h for trespass; of 18s. from William Batoshelle and two others for the same; of 2s. from William rector of Beleston and two others for default and trespass; of 12d. from the same William for false claim; of 12d. from Ralph de Combe for having had his dog in the forest in fence time;ⁱ of 12d. from Antonine Martin for horses not entered in writing;^j of 12d. from Antony de Foddreford for oxen not entered; of 12d. from Richard of the same place for like cause; of 12d. from the parson of Beleston for the like; of 12d. from Jordan de Lukesmore because he, whom he vouched to warranty, was not forthcoming;^k of 2s. from John Luceok and three others for cattle not entered; of 12d. from William parson of Beleston for oxen not entered; of 5d. from John Wagheberd and six others for divers trespasses; of 2s. 2d. from John Attewode for the same; of 2s. 5d. from John Adam and five others for the same; of 4s. from Michael Cole and three others for the same; of 12d. from John de la Torre for foolish delivery; of 12d. from William the Carpenter for cattle not entered; of 2s. from John de la Torre for trespass; of 6s. from Joel Kyr and three others for trespass in the wood; of 2s. from Geoffry de la Woghebye for concealment;^l of 6s. 8d. from Elyas de Cristenestowe because he was found in the forest in fence time; of 3s. 9d. for the heriot of Richard le Sopere; of 6s. 8d. from the same Richard for ingress;^m of 2s. of William Lutereford and another for trespass; of 2s. from Henry de la Hurne for many defaults; of 2s. from the same Henry for foolish delivery of cattle;ⁿ of 6s. 8d. from Richard le Syneger and two others for ingress; of 6s. 8d. from Richard le Yunglyng for ingress; of 3s. 9d. from the same parties for reliefs; of 5s. from Henry Penystrang and Adam de Cadetun for trespass; of 2s. from William de Hevytru for contempt; of 2s. from Robert Atteheved for twenty oxen not entered; of 5s. from Roger Repe and nine others for horses and cattle not entered; of 6s. 8d. from William Attewelle for cattle not entered.

Sum 102s. 5d.

Sum total £54 0s. 6d.

Allowances.—The same accounts in tithe paid to the parson of Lydeford 60s.; in the stipends and "poutura"^o of the foresters per annum 42s.; in their expences in fence month 22s.; in peutura of

^h "Ric. Rys et tribus sociis suis." In these accounts "socii" only mean co-defendants.

ⁱ "In tempore prohibito."

^j "Pro equis non scriptis." The usage has always been to enter cattle in the books of the clerk of the forest before they are turned on the forest.

^k "Quia non habuit quam vocavit ad warrantiam."

^l That is for not presenting offences at the lord's court.

^m "Pro ingressu," i.e. for admittance on alienation or descent to a customary tenement.

ⁿ "Pro fatua deliberatione averiorum," meaning, possibly, an amercement for unadvisedly releasing cattle from the pound before payment.

^o Probably "Potura," or drink provided for the shepherds, also spelt "peutura."

twelve shepherds tending the agisted cattle from the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross (3rd May) till the Assumption (15 Aug.) 52s. 6d.; in stipends of the same 24s.

Sum £9 18s. 6d.

Debet (or clear balance) £44 2s. 0d.

No. IX.

Extract from patent roll, 5 Edw. IV., containing an additional grant to the tanners of Cornwall of turbary and pasturage in Dartmore Forest.

[After reciting that the moors and woods of the county of Cornwall had been so much wasted, that fuel for melting tin could not be obtained in sufficient quantities, or at reasonable prices, and that the coinage had consequently fallen off three hundred marks and more, the King proceeds to grant, for himself and his successors, to the tanners for the time being now or hereafter] Quod ipsi et servientes sui infra forestam nostram de Dartemore in Comitatu Devon ad libitum suum ingredi et intrare et turbas in eadem foresta in quocumque loco sibi placuerit fodere et succindere, et carbones inde facere, et eos sic factos abinde in comitatu Cornubie ad hujusmodi stannum suum ibidem fundendum in carrettis sive summagiis vel aliter ad libitum suum, tociens quociens eis placuerit, cariare, abducere et asportare valeant licite et impune absque impetitione * * * * unacum pastura ad animalia sua in eadem foresta pascendum tempore cariationis, abductionis et asportationis hujusmodi ibidem existentis: proviso semper quod stannatores predicti solvant pro hujusmodi turbis fodiendis et succidendis et pastura prout stannatores, sive aliquæ aliæ personæ forestam predictam in casu consimili occupantes, solverunt et solvere solebant, et non aliter nec alio modo in futuro. T. 7 Feb. [A.D. 1466.]

Printed in the Case of "Vice against Thomas," Append., page 30.

No. X.

Abstract of Minister's accounts rendered anno regni regis Henrici Septimi 18vo., 1502-3. (Translated from the original in the Augmentation Office.)

LYDEFORD BOROUGH.—Account of the Reeve there.

<i>Rents of Assize.</i> —Of free tenants (i.e. freeholders)	32s. 11d.
From lands and tenements without the borough	25s. 1d.
A customary payment called "Foldepeny," payable at Michaelmas	2s.

Increased rent for the pasture round the castle as contained in the court roll, 23 Edw. III., 1349	12d.
<i>Farm of the Mill</i>	22s.
<i>Issues of Fairs</i> .—From the fair on the feast of St. Petrock and St. Bartholomew, Apostle, <i>nil</i> . this year. In the reign of Edw. III. it produced	13s. 11d.
<i>Perquisites of Courts</i> .—Pleas and perquisites of courts this year 18d. as appears by the court rolls.	
Sum total of receipts	£4 2s. 6d.
Out of which was paid to the Rector of the church for tithe of agistment there and throughout the Forest of Dartmore	£3 0s. 0d.
Clear receipts	£1 2s. 6d.

LYDEFORD MANOR.—Account of the Reeve.

<i>Rents of Assize</i>	£7 15s. 5½d.
New Rent of John Peccombe	9d.
New rent of the hamlet of William de Bibraugh and Richard Druru for two acres of waste inclosed	3d.
Similar new rents of small portions of land demised, chiefly at will, by court roll in the following places:—in Wellbrokeland, Dun- briggford (for life), Pillardeswell, Ledtorre, Leddercombe, Shirbonescrofte, Driablake, Shirlyng, Ordehall, Brodemede, Pollardes- wallen', Redegripp', Dert, Bromehill.	
<i>Farm of the Mill</i> .—Demised to the whole homage ..	20s.
<i>Gable Rent</i> (redditus gabuli).—For the custom called "More gabull" payable at Easter and Michaelmas	13s. 4d.
For a parcel of land in the waste of the lord of Polleshill	4d.
<i>Perquisites of Courts</i> .—None here, because the forester of East [Quarter] has accounted for them; nor is there any account rendered here of moneys arising from censar' [censaria?] of certain men dwelling within the precinct of the Lordship, because the same forester has accounted for them in the court roll of the East [Quarter.]	

Sum total £9 15s. 1d.

EST.—Account of the Forester there (that is, of the
East Quarter.)

<i>Arrears</i>	2d.
<i>Foreign Rents</i> .—For rent called "Fines Villarum" 22s. 11d. per annum payable at the feast of St. John the Baptist, that is to say, The vill (villata) of Chagford	1s. 0d.

	s.	d.
The hamlet of Tenkenhamhorne	4	0
The vill of Hereston	1	8
The vill of Litterford, in the parish of North Bovey	0	4
The hamlet of Hokyn, the same	0	4
The hamlet of Kyndon	0	1
The hamlet of North Werthiehed, in the parish of Whitecole [Widdecombe ?]	0	4½
Another hamlet in the same parish [not named] ..	3	0
The vill of Shirwyll, in the same	0	3
The hamlet of North Catrowe, in the same	1	6
The vill of Higher Catrowe, in the same	3	7
The vill of Grendon, in the same	1	0
The vill of Fenne, in the parish of Chagford ..	0	4½
The vill of Jurston, [Jesson ?] the same	0	8
The vill of Willuhede, the same	0	5
The vill of Edworthie	0	6
The vill of Higher Jurston	0	3
The vill of Chalnecombe, in the parish of Manaton	0	6

New Rents.—New rent of two acres of moorland in the forest of the Lord at Childrest, as demised to Lawrence Hanneworthy to hold in the name of *Launde-bote* according to the custom of the forest, as appears in the court roll, 9 Hen. VI. (1430-1) 3d. (Then follows a series of similar new-takes in the forest, chiefly of single acres; among them is the following.)

The new rent of 3d. from John Wille, of Hille, for the water-course of the Teynge within the forest beyond the land of the forest, and at the end of the lane, to the mill of the said John at Southill within the parish of Chagford, to have to him, and his heirs according to the custom of the forest, rendering yearly 7d. as appears in the court roll, 11 Henry VII. (1495-6.)

<i>Agistment within the Forest.</i> —For agistment of 1785 beasts agisted in this bailiwick going to fold without the forest, ^p viz. from each head 1d.	£	s.	d.
For agistment of two heifers at 2d. a head	11	15	7½
Customary payment of 5d. a head	0	0	4
For 36 Colliers digging turves to make coal for sale	0	15	0
For agistment of 60 sheep at ¼qr. a pair?	0	1	10½

^p In older records the words stand thus:—"agistamentum averiorum agistatorum infra forestam euntium ad faldum *extra* forestam in eadem balliva, et averiorum agistatorum in eadem balliva euntium ad faldum *infra* forestam." Compot. 29 Edw. III.
^q 7½d. per score in modern presentments.

For attachment of 39 men trespassing with their cattle within the bailiwick, from each 3d., by custom, as shown by a bill of record in the King's Exchequer at Lostwithiel	£	s.	d.
	0	9	9
<i>Issues of the Manor.</i> —"Censar" of 22 men dwelling within the forest of Dartmore for having the liberty of it, scilicet, from each 2d. by ancient custom ^r ..	0	3	4
<i>Perquisites of Courts.</i> —Pleas and perquisites of two courts leet, and eleven other courts, this year, including estrays kept beyond a year	3	2	8
Sum total	£18	15	7½

Deductions.

Fees and Wages.—Stipends of two foresters; of a "præhurdarius"^s to keep the cattle at the prey [præda] of Dunnabridge; of the clerk writing down the particulars of cattle agisted on the moor, and assisting the foresters at the said drift over the whole moor on divers occasions.

This part of the account is closed by particulars of money paid over to the proper officer of the Duchy, and of fines respited.

WEST.—Account of the forester there (i.e. of the West Quarter.)	£	s.	d.
<i>Foreign Rents.</i> —The fines of vill ^t	0	11	11½
that is to say, the vill of Shawe ^u	0	0	7
The vill of Brighteworth in the parish of Mewe ^v ..	0	2	0
The hamlet of Lonnington, the same	0	0	2
The vill of Godemewe, ^w the same	0	0	2
The vill of Mewey, ^x the same	0	0	2
The parish of Shidford ^y	0	3	0
The vill of Denecumbe, in the parish of Walkampton	0	1	6
The parish of Sampford Spanley [Spiney]	0	1	0
The parish of Whitechurch	0	1	0
The parish of Petarsetavie ^z	0	0	5
The vill of Chodlype ^{aa}	0	0	5
The vill of Twyste, in the parish of Tavistoke ..	0	0	2½
The vills of Raddyche and Pytchecliff	0	0	3
The vill of Margaret Land, in the same parish ..	0	0	2
The new rent of one acre of land within the forest, near Plympstappess, ^{bb} leased by court roll, 12 May, 14 Henry VII.	0	0	1½

^r This perhaps explains the Lydeford account 25 Edward I. ante. No. viii. In some early accounts this census is treated as a capitation tax on residents, not having land of the lord.

^s This seems to be the person now called the *prior*, i.e. chief herdsman.

^t The name of the vills vary in some of the records.

^u Shaugh. ^v Meavy. ^w Goodameavy. ^x Meavy. ^y Sheepstor?

^z Petertavy. ^{aa} Cudliptown? ^{bb} Plymsteps.

Agistment within the Forest.—For the agistment of 999 cattle agisted within the bailiwick, going from the fold without the forest, &c. [Then follows a series of entries like those of the East Quarter, and under the same heads, differing only in the number of colliers or cattle.]

Perquisites of Courts.—Similar to those in the East Quarter.

Sum £9 12 2

Deductions for wages of Foresters and “Præ-hurdarius,” and for payments, as in the East Quarter.

SOUTH.—Account of the forester of the South Quarter.

<i>Foreign Rents.</i> —For rent certain called fines of villis, that is to say	1 16 0
The vill of Helle	0 18 0
The hamlet of Stouton, in Buckfastleigh parish ..	0 17 0
The vill of Skyridon, ^{cc} in the parish of Dene ..	0 0 7
The vill of Ugborough	0 0 5

New Rents.—Under this head are various new grants of small customary tenements as in the East Quarter.

<i>Agistment within the Forest.</i> —Agistment of 1830 beasts going from fold without the forest	11 8 9
[Under this head are other entries like those in the East and West Quarters.]	

<i>Perquisites of Courts</i>	3 15 10
Sum total	£17 8 10½

Deductions and payments follow, as in the other Quarters: at the foot of the account occurs the following entry of some importance as regards the commons adjacent to the forest, formerly known as the Commons of Devon.

“Afterwards he (the forester) is charged with 1½d. being new rent of Thomas Rawe, John Beare and others for one acre of land on the common of Devon, lying neare to Yerne between Erme Pound and Quyoche Bemefote,^{dd} to hold to them according to the custom of the forest of Dartmore, as appears by the court roll there of 16 Henry VII., and with 1½d. of new rent of Thomas Hanne-worthie, John Cole and others for one acre of land on the common of Devon, lying in the east part

of the Erme between Hortelake and Whitepytte, to hold to them according to the custom of the manor and forest, as appears by the court roll aforesaid."

NORTH.—Account of the forester there (i.e. of the North Quarter.)

Foreign Rents.—22s. 10½d. for fines of villis, viz.—

The vill of Throulegh	£0	2	6
The vill of Collerowe, in the parish of Chagford	0	0	7½
The parish of South Tawton	0	7	4½
The vill of Sele ^{ee}	0	0	6½
The parish of Belston	0	3	0
The vill of Hallestoke	0	2	6
The parish of Sourton	0	0	4½
The parish of Briddestowe	0	2	0
The vill of Willesworth	0	2	0

Agistment within the Forest.—Agistment of 1397 beasts going from the fold within the forest 8 13 7½
(The other entries are similar to those in the other quarters.)

Perquisites of Courts 1 15 3

Sum total £13 14 0½

The deductions are as in the preceding Accounts.

No. XI.

Sundry miscellaneous extracts from Court Rolls of the Manor of Lidford and Forest of Dartmore.

West Dartmore.—Law Court of the Manor and Forest held on Monday next before the Feast of St. Luke, 8 Edw. IV., 1468.

The Bailiffs are amerced for default in not distraining Reginald Cole and others to answer to the Lord the King for enclosing, emparking, and appropriating two hundred acres of land of the common pasture of Devon at Sodilburghill and Dastamehill, between the rivers Erme and Aune, to the great damage, &c.

Walter Bradmore amerced for entering on the King's moor without license and digging for turves and coal for eight years last past, and selling the same and carrying it off from the moor to places without Venville.

Bailiffs amerced for not distraining Thomas Thurusldon to answer for keeping eight beasts on the forest and common of Devon for seven years without license, &c.

West Dartmore.—Law Court at Lidford, 18 Edw. IV., 1479.

The homage present Walter Abbot and another, for permitting the gate of the moor at Staledon, *ff* called Abbot's Gate, to be ruinous, to the nuisance of the country, and they are amerced accordingly.

There are numerous presentments in all the rolls for not keeping up the fences against the forest and commons.

John Biloc, Vicar of Walsingham, is attached to answer the Lord for disturbing the Prince's tenants by suing them in the Spiritual Court for tithes of cattle depastured in the common of Devon, near and around the Forest of Dartmore, contrary to the liberties and customs of the said common and to the prejudice of the Prince.

West Lidford.—Law Court of the Manor and Forest, 16 May, 2 James I., 1604.

The homage present Richard Richards for cutting turves in the forest, for one inhabiting out of Venville, against the custom and to the destruction of the land of the forest: He is fined 1s. 6d.

The same, 21 Sept., 6 James I., 1608.

Presentment of the inhabitants of Wapsworthie for permitting Wapsworthie hedge, near the forest, to be in decay:—also of divers persons not inhabiting within Venville, for depasturing sheep in the forest.

No. XII.

The Presentment of the Jury at a Survey Court for the Forest of Dartmore, A.D. 1609.

At a courte of Survey holden at Okhampton in the countie of Devon the xvth daye of August in the sixth yere of the raigne of our most gracious Sov'raigne Lord James by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Kinge Defender of the fayth &c. and of Scotland the forty second, before Sr. Willm. Strode Knight, Richard Connocke Esquire Auditor of the Dutchie of Cornwall, Robt. Moore Esquire and Robt. Paddon Gent., Com'issioners by virtue of a com'ission from his said Ma^{tie} to them and others directed bearing date the daye of in the ffyvth yere of his said Ma^{ties} most happie Raigne concerninge the Survey of divers honors castles mannors messuages lands tenem^{ts} fforestes chases parks and other proffits belonging to the said Dutchie of Cornwall as by the same Com'ission under the great seale of England more at lardge doth and maye appere; The jurors then and theretourned scil^t Edward Skirrett, Walter Hele, Roger Cole, Henrie Burges, Richard Edmond, Gregory Gaye, John Bickford, Hugh Elford, John Masye, Roger Drake, Walter Lillicrappe, John Chubbe, Stephen

Taverner, Andrew Haywood, Roger Wickett, Will^m. Searell, Rob^t. Hannaford, John Willes, John Hele, Walter Tookerman, Will^m. Mudge, William Ilbert, Thomas Turges, Ellies Harryes and John Parnell, all wch. being sworn to enquire of the boundes and limitts of the Forrest of Dartmoore and of all such p^{son}. and p^{sons}. as have interest of com'on there and wth. what beastes and at what tymes and seasons and what other com'odities the same p^{son}. and p^{sons}. may usuallie have and take wth. in the said fforest and mannor of Lidford and what proffits and com'odities doe from them yerelie come unto his matie. and to the Lord Prince for the same—And lykewyse what other landes and tenem^{ts}. royalties rightes estrayes and proffits do belonge unto his said matie. and Lord Prince lyinge adjoininge and nere to the said Forrest and what right title or occupacon anie p^{son}. or p^{sons}. do clayme or ought to have of and in the same and what yerelie proffitts do arrise and growe out of the said landes and lykewyse what offences trespasses and misdemeasures are com'itted and donne wth. in the said Forrest and lands and by whom: The said jurors uppon good testymonie showed them witnesses sworne, and uppon their own knowledges do p'sent upon the'r oathes as followeth: FFIRST they p'sent that the bounds of the fforest of Dartmoore as they the said jurors do fynde partlie by the coppies of auncient recordes p^{tie}. uppon the evidence of other p'sons and partlie uppon their owne knowledge but especiallie as the boundes have beene and are used and accustomed to be these as follows.—Beginning at a high hill lying in the north quarter of the said fforest called at this day Cosdon, al's Cosson, and in the old records written Hoga de Costdonne and from thence lineallie eastward by estimacon one mile or more unto little houndetorr wch. in the said records is called (hoga de parva houndetorr) and from thence lineallie to a place named in the said records Thurleston, now as they suppose called Waterdontorr being about three quarters of a myle from Houndtorr aforesaid, and from thence near a myle to Wotesbrookelake foote wch. falleth into Teynge and wch. lake they thincke to be the same wch. is now called Whoodelake, att wch. place they accompt the North Quarter to end; and from thence nere one mile to Hingeston, al's Highstone, in the east quarter lyinge near ffernworthie hedges, and from thence lineallie nere one mile to Yeston, al's Geston, now com'onlie called Hethstone, and from thence lineallie thorough a fennye place now called Turfehill, but named in the old records per mediam turbariam de Alberecheved, to a place called Kinge's Oven and in the said record namely Furnum Regis, and from thence to Wallebrookeheade and so alonge by Wallebrooke until it fall into easter Dart and so downwards by the said easter Dart to another Dart called wester Dart and from thence ascendinge by the said west Dart unto Wobrookefoote wher the east quarter endeth; and from thence linyallie ascendinge to Drylake, al's Dryewoorke, and from thence ascendinge by Drylake unto Crefeild fford or Dryefeild ford and from thence to Knattleburroughe, wch. they take to be the same that is called in the old records Gnatteshill, and

so from thence descending linyallie to Wester Wellebrooke headd and so by the same Wester Wellebrooke untill it falleth into Owne, al's Aven, and from thence linyallie to Easter Whitaburrowe and from thence liniallie to Redlake foote whir it falleth into Erme, and from thence liniallie ascendinge unto Arme headd, wch. they take to be a place named in the said records Grimsgrrove; and from thence to Plimheadd, where the South quarter endeth; and from thence linyallie to Elisboroughe and from thence linyallie to Seaward's Crosse and from thence linyallie to little Hisworthie and so from thence linyallie to another Hisworthie and so from thence linyallie through the midst of Mistorr moore to a rocke called Mistorrpan, and from thence linyallie to Dedlakeheadd wch. they thincke to be the next bound wch. is called in the old records Meuborough, and from thence linyallie northwardes to Lunteshorowe, wch. they thincke to be the same that is called in the records Lullingesete, and from thence linyallie to Wester Redlake between wch. said two bounds the wester quarter endeth; and from thence northward to Rattlebrooke foote and soe from thence to the headd of the same Rattlebrooke, and so from thence linyallie unto Steinegtorr^{gg} and from thence linyallie to Langaford, al's Sandyford, and so from thence linyallie to the ford wch. lyeth in the east syde of the chapple^{AA} of Halstocke and so from thence linyallye unto the said hill called Cosdon, al's Cosson, wher they did begin.

2. It^m. they do also p'sent. that the soyle of dyvers moores, com'ons, and wastes, lyinge for the most parte aboute the same forrest of Dartmoore and usuallie called by the name of the Common of Devonsheere, is parcell of the Dutchie of Cornwall, and that the fforesters and other officers of his matie. and his progenitors Kinges and Queens of England have alwayes accustomed to drive the said commons and wast growndes and all the commons, moores and wasts of other men (lyinge in lyke manner about the said fforest) home to the corne hedges and leape yeates rounde aboute the same Common and fforest, some few places onlie exempted, and that the said fforesters and officers have taken and gathered to his matie's. use at the tymes of dryft within the same commons such proffitts and other duties as they have and ought to do within the said fforest; how be it they intend not herebye to prejudice the particular rightes wch. anie persons do clayme for themselves or their ten'nts in anie commons or sev'all growndes in or adjoyninge to the said common or fforest, but do leave the same to judgment of the lawe and to the justnesse of their tytles wch. they make to the same.

3. It^m. more they do present that all the Kinge's ten'nts wch. are Venvill have accustomed and used to have and take tyme out of minde in and uppon the forrest of Dartmoore all thinges that maye doe them good, savinge vert (wch. they take to be greene oke) and

^{gg} Sic in orig.

^{AA} This chapel is in the parish of Okehampton, and is dedicated to St. Michael.

venson, payinge for the same their Venvill rents and other dues as hath bene tyme out of mynde accustomed, and doinge their suits and services to his maties. courtes of the mannor and forrest of Dartmoore aforesaid, and also exceptinge night rest, for the w^{ch}. everie one of them have of longe tyme out of mynde yerelie payde or ought to paye iii^d. commonlye called a *grasewait*, and also to have and take tyme out of mynde common of pasture for all manner their beastes, shepe, and cattle in and uppon all the moores, wastes, and com'ons, usuallie called the Common of Devonshire, and also turves, vagges, heath, stone, cole and other things according to their custombes, payinge nothings for the same but the renttes dues and services aforesaid, neverthelesse their meaninge is that the Venvill men ought not to turne or put into the said fforrest or common at anie tyme or tymes anie more or other beastes and cattell then they can or maye usuallie winter in and uppon their tenements and growndes lyinge within Venvill.

4. It^m. further they p^sent that no stranger ought to turne or put to pasture into the said forrest of Dartmoor anie sheepe or pigges, and that such strangers as have donne so have been usuallie presented at Lidford for the same, and that the owners of such pigges as have subverted and spoyled the soyle of the said forest are often presented for the same at Lidford and so are to be fyned by the steward there. And as touchinge the dryftes made yerelie in the said fforest and commons adjoyninge for his Matie. they referre it to the forrest men being also ten'nts of the forrest and manor aforesaid w^{ch}. have presented the same, wth. the orders and custombes thereof.

5. It^m. they do present that one Edward Ashe in the sommer tyme 1607 was at Sampford within venvill (by his owne confession) at the rowsinge of a stagge and was at huntinge of the same dere with houndes till he was kild about Blanchdon, w^{ch}. was not lawful to be donne without license.

6. It^m. further also they do present that Will^m. Chastie (by his owne confessyon) kild a stagge wth. a pece or gun nere a month since about Blacktorrebeare (w^{ch}. is part in the fforest of Dartmoore and part in Venvill) and that he did it for Sr. Thomas Wys * * * * and delivered the same to the said Sr. Thomas at his house at Sidnham, at w^{ch}. tyme he told him that he had kild the same dere in the fforest.

7. It^m. also they present that all the wast growndes, moores and commons w^{ch}. have bene heretofore claymed by the auncesters of Gamaliel Slanninge Esquire and are scituate lyinge in the west parte of the boundes aforesaid, that is to saye, from Elisboroughe unto Seaward's Crosse from thence to little Hisworthie, from thence to great Hisworthie and from thence to Mistorpan and from thence extendinge towards the auncient corneditches, are parcell of the Dutchie of Cornwall; without w^{ch}. auneyent corne ditches, that is to saie towards the forrest, the auncestors of the said Gamaliel Slanninge have caused to be erected certayne howses and have enclosed some parcells of the said wast grownde, and that he or his tenants do now use and occupie the same to his or their owne use; the whole contayninge

by estimacion ten thousand acres as it is specified in the exemplification of a judgment given against Nicholas Slanninge Esquire ancestor of the said Gamaliel for the same wastes and moores in the ixth. yere of the raigne of Quene Elizabeth.

[From a copy certified by the keeper of records at the Duchy of Cornwall Office.]

No. XIII.

Extract from the Parliamentary Survey of the Borough of Lidford, made 27 August, 1650.

A Survey of the Borough of Lidford with the rights members and appurtes situate lying and being in the Co. of Devon part of the Duchy there and parcell of the possessions of Charles Stewart late Duke of Cornwall but now settled in trustees for the use of the Commonwealth held as of the manor of East Greenwich in free and common Soccage by Fealty only—taken by Edward Hore, George Crompton, George Gentleman, Gabriel Taylor and George Goodman and by them returned the 27 Day of August 1650.

LIDFORD CASTLE.

The said castle is very much in decay and almost totally ruined. The walls are built of lime and stone within the compass of which wall there is four little roomes whereof to are above stairs the flore of which is all broken divers of the chiefest beames being fallen to the ground and all the rest is following, only the roof of the said castle (being lately repaired by the Prince and covered with lead) is more substantial than the other parts.

The scite of the said castle with the ditches and courte contain half an acre of land of which the Borough of Lidford holdeth the court at the will of the Lord for which they pay the yearly rent of twelve pence. The said scite is valued to be worth at an improvement besides the aforesaid rent per ann. 5s. The stones about the castle are not worth the taking down, but there are divers parcels of old timber which we value to be worth de claro 6£. There is one part of the tower leaded containing 1445 square feet, every foot containeth (by weight) nine pounds in all thirteen thousand eight hundred and ninety five pounds which at a penny halfpenny a pound cometh to eighty six pounds sixteen shillings and tenpence halfpenny, but consideration being had to the taking it down and the portage, we reprise, six pounds sixteene shillings tenpence halfpenny, so then it amounteth to, de claro, £80

Rents of Assize.—The Quit Rents or Rents of Assize of the said Borough doe amonte to yearly the sum of £3 : 1 : 4 part of which said rents (viz. 3£) is paid to the Rector of the Parish of Lidford in lieu of all the tithes of the Forest of Dartmoore so y^t. ye. cleare rent accruing to the Lord amounteth to the yearly rent of one shilling and four pence 1^s : 4.

Rent of the Faire.—The said Burrough doth pay to the Lord for the faire that is yearly held there viz. at the Feast of St. Bartholomew, the sum of one shilling and six pence per ann. 1^s : 6.

Ale Rent.—There is also paid by the said Burrough for Ale waights the sum of twelve pence per annum 1^s.

So that the whole rent which the said Borough payeth to the Lord, with the one shilling for the Castle greene, amounteth to per annum £0 4s. 10d.

[From a copy certified by the Keeper of Records at the Duchy Office.]

No. XIV.

Terrier of the Parish of Lidford, A.D., 1727.

The Inhabitants within the manor of Lidford pay their Tithe Lambs and all the Surplice Fees and Mortuaries to the Vicar of Withycombe. All their other Tithe is due and payable in kind to the Rector of Lidford excepting the Tithe herbage of barren cattle kept and depastured in the reputed forest or waste of Dartmoor for which the sum of three pounds is yearly paid at Michaelmas to the said Rector out of the Prince's high rents issuing out of the Borough of Lidford. 4. May 1727.

THOMAS BURNAFORD, *Rector*
Stephen Maddaford, Churchwarden
Valentine Phillips, Side man.

(Extracted from the Episcopal Registry Exeter.)

No. XV.

"Ordres and decrees set downe anno 10 Henrici VII. for the Tynne Workes," A.D. 1494. [From a record in the Treasury of the Exchequer.]

Ad magnam curiam Stannariorum tentam apud Crockerntor undecimo die mensis Septembris anno Regni metuendissimi Domini nostri regis Henrici septimi decimo coram magistro Johanne Arundell, clerico, prepotentissimi principis domini Arthuri Christianissimi Regis predicti primogeniti Principis Wallie Ducis

Cornubiæ, Comitis Cestri et Flynt, cancellario, Magistro Roberto Frost elemosinario, Willielmo Uvedale milite, cameræ ejusdem Principis Thesaurario, magistro Hugone Oldom, clerico, et sociis suis commissionariis dicti Principis in Comitatu Devonïæ deputatis ac coram Johanne Sapcote milite, deputato custodis sive gardiani Stannariorum in comitatu predicto. Quædam actus, statuta, et ordinationes pro bono commodo, utilitate, et tranquillitate Stannariorum in Comitatu Devonïæ predicto per viginti quatuor Juratores de Chaggefurd, viginti quatuor Juratores de Aysshpertton, viginti quatuor Juratores de Tavistock, et viginti quatuor Juratores de Plympton, quorum nomina, unacum dictis actibus, statutis et ordinationibus, inferius inscribuntur, inactitata edita, stabilita, et auctoritate dictæ curiæ constructa et approbata in forma sequenti.

[Here follow the names of 24 Jurors for each Stannary.]

Qui quidem Juratores dicunt presentant et inactitant prout sequitur :

Be it enacted and establysshed by the hole body of the Stayniery in the high Court of Crockerntorr That no person neyther persones having possession of londes and tenements above the yerly value of X£ nor noone other to theyr use be owners of eny Tynwork or parcel of eny Tynworke. But suche as have Tynneworke or parcell of Tynnworke by inheritaunce from their auncesters or such as have now any Tynnworke in peasible possession by lawfull title or hereafter shall have within their owne frehold.

Also that no abbot, priour, neyther ony spirituall person nor noone other to their use be owner of eny Tynneworke or parcell of eny Tynneworke but as be or hereafter shal be in their owne freholde, other then suche as they have now in peasible possession by lawfull title.

Also that no warden of Staynierey, underwarden, steward, neither understeward ne clerke of the court of the Staynierey, baillyff or underbaillyff of Staynierey, neither no forster ne under forster of the More nor none other to their use be awner of eny Tynworke or parcell of eny Tynneworke but such as have the saide tynneworke or parcell of a Tynneworke by inheritaunce from their auncesters or suche as have now eny Tynneworke in peasible possession by lawfull title.

Also yf ony person or persones be owners of eny Tynneworke or parcell of ony Tynnworke contrary to theyes foresaide acts after Mighelmasse cometh twelvemoneth, that then he or they shall forfaite to the Prynce for every Tynneworke that he or they beth so owners of, XX£, and the said tynworke or parcell of ony suche tynworke be forfeited to the said Prince.

Also that from hensforth every Tynner that hereafter shal pithe

ony tynworke that at the next lawe court after such pithe made, the same pither shal entre the hole bondes of the same tynworke in the same court and the name therof and as well to put in the names of all those that such pither hath named owners in the same worke and this uppon payne of XL shillings to be forfaited to the Prince; and whosoever pithe contrarie to this that then his pithe be voide. And that for eny such entre of ony suche bondes no payment be made therfor to warden, steward, steward's clerke or ony oder.

Also that th'owners of everye blowing howse shal bryng a certain marke of his blowing howse to the court of the stayniery within the precinct wher the said blowing howse is sett byfore that ony tynne shall be marked withall, to the entent that al suche markes may be drawn in a boke which shall remayne in the same court. And all tynne to be blown in the same howse to bere the same marke and the marke of the owner. And if it shall happen from hensforth ony marchaunt to bye eny false tynne and so to be disseyved, that yf he bring to the court the marke of the blowyng howse and of the owner in metall, let him come theder with sufficient evidens and prove that the tynne wheruppon the said marke was sett was false and untruly medelyd, that they [then] incontintently the Prince's officers for the tyme being shal make serche by the said boke who be owners of thoes markes and geve notice of their names to the warden or his deputie at the cunage in opyn court, and he forthwith shal committ theym to warde that oweth the markes and the blowers, and to compell theym to satisfye the marchaunt of al suche hurt and damage as he hath take by such false tynne, and then the blower to remayne in ward and make fyne as shall be thought resonable by the Prince and his counsell. And that no money be payed for entre of ony marke in to the said boke to warden, steward, or steward's clerke or ony oder.

Also that every owner of tynne that shal bring tynne into any blowing howse to be blowen and fyned shal bryng a certain marke in to the said court ther to be put in a boke, as is afore rehersed, upon payne of X£ to be forfaited to the Prince, without ony payment makyng therfor as is afore said.

Also that no suche owners shal chenge their marke soo ones marked and emprynted in suche a boke, neyder use eny oder markes without a reasonable cause shewed and approved by the warden or his deputie at the cunage in opyn court, and also that the new markes as they entend to use to be entred and marked in the same boke withouten ony money paying. And yf ony tynne be founde having no markes or marked with ony oder marke then is comprised in the said boke, that then all suche tynne be forfaited to the Prynce.

Also that no man from hensforth make no synder tynne after that it is wartered, be it allayed with oder tynne or not allaide, or eny oder manner of harde tynne without it be marked with this letter H as well as with the markes of the owners and blowing howses, uppon payne of forfaitour thereof, th'one half to the Prince and th'oder half to the ffynder.

Also yf any man from hensforth shall arreare and make any new or chaunge his blowing howse, or any new man entre into any suche howse, that then he shall not occupie the saide howse unto tyme he hath browght his marke to be drawn in a boke at the next court as is before rehersed without eny thyng paying, uppon payne of X£ to be forfeited to the Prince.

Also that from hensforth ther shal no man learned in the lawes spirituelle or temporalle plede nor be a counsell to make bylle, plee or answer in any court of the Stayniery uppon payne of XXX£ to be forfeited th'on half to the Prince and th'oder half to them that wille sue the same.

Also be it enacted that no Tynner nor Tynners be in no wise retheyned with no maner man of what degre or condicion he be of by othe, promise, signe, token, liverey or fee, then suche as be menyall servaunts according to the lawes as is permitted, whatsomever he be shall forfaite unto the Prince every moneth XX shillings and the receyver XL shillings.

Provided allewey that it be lawfull to every person, what possession he be of, to pithe, occupie, and enjoye any tynnetwork or tynneworkes within ther owne frehold, ony acte or actes above rehersed or made notwithstanding.

Et nos Princeps prescriptus omnia et singula actus statuta et ordinationes predicta jure prerogativæ nostræ ac cum matura deliberacione et advisamento consilii nostri ratificamus approbamus et confirmamus ac ab omnibus et singulis stannatoribus et aliis hominibus nostris firmiter observari in forma suprascripta volumus et præcipimus sub pena incumbente. Mandantes insuper gardiano custodi sive senescalpo Stannariæ nostræ predictæ et omnibus aliis officiariis nostris ac eorum deputatis quod omnia et singula actus statuta et ordinationes prescripta observent et observari faciant et execucioni demandent sicut decet. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum nostrum apponi fecimus. Datum apud castrum nostrum de Ludlowe tercio die mensis Aprilis anno supradicto.

LYDFORD LAW,

BY WILLIAM BROWNE.

*Supposed to have been written A.D. 1644.**

I oft have heard of Lydford law,
How in the morn they hang and draw,
And sit in judgment after.
At first I wonder'd at it much,
But since I find the matter such,
As it deserves no laughter.

They have a castle on a hill ;
I took it for some old wind-mill,
The vanes blown off by weather.
To lie therein one night 'tis guess'd
'Twere better to be ston'd or press'd,
Or hang'd, ere you comè hither.

Two men less room within this cave
Than five mice in a lantern have :
The keepers too are sly ones :
If any could devise by art
To get it up into a cart,
'Twere fit to carry lions.

When I beheld it, Lord ! thought I,
What justice and what clemency
Hath Lydford castle's high hall !
I know none gladly there would stay,
But rather hang out of the way
Than tarry for a trial.

* Reprinted from the last edition of WESTCOTE'S *Devon*, edited by Dr. OLIVER and PITMAN JONES, Esq.

Prince Charles a hundred pounds hath sent
 To mend the leads and planchings* *right*
 Within this living tomb ;
 Some forty-five pounds more had paid
 The debts of all that shall be laid
 There till the day of doom.

One lies there for a seam of malt,
 Another for two pecks of salt,
 Two sureties for a noble.
 If this be true or else false news
 You may go ask of Master Crews, †
 John Vaughan or John Doble. ‡

Near these poor men that lie in lurch,
 See a dire bridge, a little church,
 Seven ashes, and one oak ;
 Three houses standing, and ten down,
 They say the rector hath a gown,
 But I saw ne'er a cloak.

Whereby you may consider well
 That plain simplicity doth dwell
 At Lydford without bravery ;
 And in that town both young and grave
 Do love the naked truth to have,
 No cloak to hide their knavery.

This town's enclos'd with desert moors,
 But where no bear nor lion roars,
 And nought can live but hogs :
 For all o'erturn'd by Noah's flood,
 Of fourscore miles scarce one foot's good,
 And hills are wholly bogs.

And near hereto's the Gubbins cave ;
 A people that no knowledge have
 Of law, of God, or men :
 Whom Cæsar never yet subdued ;
 Who've lawless liv'd ; of manners rude ;
 All savage in their den.

* *Planching*, a timber floor. This word is still in use, in the Devonshire vernacular.

† The Steward. ‡ Attorneys of the Court.

By whom, if any pass that way,
He dares not the least time to stay,
For presently they howl ;
Upon which signal they do muster
Their naked forces in a cluster,
Led forth by Roger Rowle.

The people all within this clime
Are frozen in the winter time,
Or drown'd with snow or rain ;
And when the summer is begun
They lie like silkworms in the sun,
And come to life again.

'Twas told me, 'in King Cæsar's time
This town was built of stone and lime,'
But sure the walls were clay ;
And these are fall'n for aught I see,
And since the houses have got free,
The town is run away.

O Cæsar ! if thou there didst reign,
While one house stands, come there again,
Come quickly, while there is one ;
For if thou stay'st one little fit,
But five years more, they will commit
The whole town to a prison.

To see it thus, much griev'd was I ;
The proverb saith sorrows be dry,
So was I at the matter :
When by good luck, I know not how,
There thither came a strange stray cow,
And we had milk and water.

To nine good stomachs with our whigg,
At last we got a tithen pig,
This diet was our bounds ;
And this was just and if 'twere known
A pound of butter had been thrown
Among a pack of hounds.

One glass of drink I got by chance,
'Twas claret when it was in France,
But now from it much wider ;
I think a man might make as good
With green crabs boil'd in Brazil wood
And half-a-pint of cider.

I kiss'd the Mayor's hand of the town,
Who, though he wears no scarlet gown,
Honours the rose and thistle.
A piece of coral to the mace,
Which there I saw to serve in place,
Would make a good child's whistle.

At six o'clock I came away,
And pray'd for those that were to stay
Within a place so arrant :
Wide and ope the winds so roar,
By God's grace I'll come there no more
'Till forc'd by a tin-warrant.

FINIS.

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